

THE
Present CONDITION
OF THE
Muscovite EMPIRE,
Till the YEAR 1699.

IN TWO
LETTERS:

The First from a Gentleman, who was Conversant
WITH THE
Muscovite Ambassadour in *Holland*:

The Second from a Person of Quality at
VIENNA,
Concerning the late
Muscovite EMBASSY,

His present *Czarish Majesty*;

THE
RUSSIAN EMPIRE;
AND
GREAT-TARTARY.

WITH THE
LIFE

Of the Present
Emperour of *CHINA*.

By Father J. BOUVET, Missionary.
By the Author of the *Antient and Present State of Muscovy*.

LONDON, Printed for F. Cogan, in the Inner-Temple-Lane.
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PREFACE.

THE Two following Letters, which I have here presented to the Reader, being lately come to my hands, and containing a short but most exact and authentic Account of the present Condition of the African Company, I thought I could scarce do a more acceptable piece of Service to the Publick at this juncture, than to communicate them to the Curious. The first Letter was written by a Gentleman, who being at Amsterdam at the time of that so famous African Embassy; and whilst the Case was there pending, had the Honour to be intimately



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THE Two following *Letters*, which I have here presented to the Reader, being lately come to my hands, and containing a short but most exact and authentick Account of the present Condition of the *Muscovite* Empire, I thought I could scarce do a more acceptable piece of Service to the Publick at this Juncture, than to communicate them to the Curious. The first Letter was written by a Gentleman, who being at *Amsteldam* at the time of that Solemn *Muscovite* Embassy; and whilst the *Czar* was there present, had the Honour to be intimately

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The Preface.

acquainted with some of the *Majors* of the first Rank there, which gave him the opportunity to be inform'd concerning these Matters, which hitherto either are not at all, or at least, but very confusedly come to our Knowledge. Those, who will seriously reflect upon what this Gentleman has been pleased to tell us concerning the two Sieges of *Asoph*, its true Situation, Advantage and Strength; concerning the present State of the *Muscovite* Navy, and their Maritime Affairs; with several other most Curious Observations, relating to his *Czarist Majesty's* Person, especially since his departure out of *England*, will, I suppose, agree with me in Opinion, that this Account is the most exact, and perhaps also the most authentick we have had of this kind for many Years before. The second being an Abstract of several Letters written by a Person of Quality, then Residing at the Imperial Court at *Vienna*, gives us

The Preface.

a faithful Account both of his own Sentiments and of the whole Imperial Court concerning the present State of Affairs in *Muscovy*; with very Curious Observations upon several remarkable Subjects, relating to the last Peace with the *Turks*; and the Way by Land through the Great *Tartary* into *China*.

Any one that will be at the pains to compare the Maps the Geographers have been pleas'd to put upon the World formerly, of the North Eastern Parts of *Asia*, with this Account, will soon be convinc'd of their Ignorance, when they have represented this Part of the World, which is Stock'd with vast Numbers of Inhabitants, and Water'd by so many great and fair Rivers, as inhabitable Forrests and Defarts. In the whole, these two Letters may well be consider'd as a Supplement of the *Antient and Present State of Muscovy*, published at the time of His Czarish Majesty's being in *England*; many things
of

The Preface.

of Moment which have happened since, being inserted here, and related upon the Credit of those Persons, who had the opportunity of taking the best Information that can be expected of this kind. I will not pretend to enlarge much upon the Historical Portraiture, given us by Father Bouvet, of the present Emperour of China, supposing that his being an Eye-witness of what he relates, and his offering it to the most Christian King, will be a sufficient Plea, both for his Authority and Veracity, to the unbiass'd Reader.

The HISTORY of
CANG-HI,

The Present
 Emperour of China:
 AND THE
 EASTERN-TARTARY.

THE Name of the Emperour who at this time Commands over all *China*, and Part of the *Great Tartary*, is *CANG-HI*, which implies as much as *THE PEACEABLE*. He succeeded his Father, *CHUN-TCHI*, a Prince of the *Tartarian* Race, call'd, *The Mantcheon's*, who first of all, being possessed of a large Tract of Ground in the *Great Eastern Tartary*, afterwards settled themselves in the Province of *Leao-tong*, situate on the North-East side of *China*; and at last compleated the Conquest of this vast Monarchy, towards the middle of our Age.

The History of CANG-HY,

This Prince is at present in the 44th year of his Age, and the 36th of his Reign; a Person, who by many Noble Qualifications has rendred himself Worthy of the Management of so Great an Empire.

His whole Deportment is very Majestick, being well proportion'd in his Limbs, and pretty Tall, the Feature of his Face very exact, , with a large and brisk Eye, beyond what is observable among others of that Nation; He is a little crooked Nosed, and pitted with the Small-pox, but not so as to be in the least disfigur'd by them.

But the rare Accomplishments of his Mind, surpass infinitely those of his Body. His Natural Genius is such as can be parallell'd but by few, being endow'd with a Quick and piercing Wit, a vast Memory, and Great Understanding; His Constancy is never to be shaken by any sinister Event, which makes him the fittest Person in the World, not only to undertake, but also to accomplish Great Designs.

To be short, His inclinations are so Noble, and in all respects so Answerable to the High Station of so Great a Prince, that his People stand in Admiration of his Person, being equally Charm'd with his Love and Justice; and the Tenderness he shews for his Subjects, and with his vertuous Inclinations; which as they are always guided by the Dictates of Reason, so, they render him an Absolute Master of his Passions.

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3

But, what may seem most surprising, is, that so Great a Monarch, who bears upon his Shoulders the Weight of so vast an Empire, should apply himself with a great deal of Assiduity to, and have a true relish of all Sorts of useful Arts and Sciences.

It was owing to his extraordinary *Genius* which appear'd in his very Infancy, the Emperour his Father, notwithstanding his Tender Age, gave him the Preference before all his Brothers, in declaring him his Successour; and this Prince has by his Conduct, since, made it apparent to all the World, that his Father was not mistaken in his Choice.

For no sooner was he mounted upon the Throne, but his Chief aim was, how to make himself beloved by both the Nations he was to Command; and knowing the *Tartars* to be a Warlike People, he accomplished himself in all Sorts of Exercises used among them, as well as in those Sciences most esteem'd among the *Chineses*.

In Bodily Exercises he soon improv'd, to that degree, that there was scarce any Person of Note that could coop with him. And as the *Tartars* equally esteem the Strength and Agility of Body, they stand amaz'd at this Prince, when they see him manage his Bow with the utmost Dexterity, which is of such a bigness, that there is not one in the whole Court, who can bend it. He shoots well, both

with his left and right Hand, whether on Foot or on Horseback, though riding at full-speed, and rarely misses his Mark, even when he shoots flying. He is very expert in Managing all sorts of Arms, not excepting those, that are no more in use now a days, and is as dextrous at Handling our Fire-locks, as at the Bow. The *Tartars* are naturally good Horsemen, but this Prince surpasses most of them in this Exercise.

Notwithstanding he excels thus in all Military Exercises, this does not hinder his having a good relish of Musick, especially of those Musical Instruments, which are brought thither out of *Europe*. And, if the multitude and weight of publick Affairs did not prevent him from playing upon the same, as often as he could wish, there is no question but he would soon become as great a Master of them, as he is of some *Tartarian* and *Chinese* Instruments, which he has been taught to play upon, when as yet in his tender Age.

But as he is not ignorant that the Art of Government is the Principal Qualification belonging to a Sovereign, so it is to that he has applied himself with the utmost Diligence. He was scarce sixteen years of Age, when his Chief Minister of State (who was the most Potent of those four Lords, unto whom his Father had committed the Regency during his Son's Minority) was become so insolent, as
to

present Emperour of China.

5

to Lord it over all the Princes of the Blood, and to dispose of all the Courts of Justice at Pleasure, no body daring to stand in opposition to his Greatness.

This young Emperour was the first who had resolution enough to stop the career of his insolency. For which purpose, having call'd together the Chiefest of the Princes of the Royal Blood, who were Members of the Great Council of the Empire, he upbraided them with their want of Courage, in conniving at the Outrages committed by this Minister of State, without daring to oppose him in his violent Courses, and at the same time, ordered the President of this Council, to go immediately and seize his Person, which was done accordingly.

He being convicted of many Injustices, was condemned to die; but having asked and obtained permission to see the Emperour before his Death, he shewed him the Scars and Marks of his Wounds, which he had received in the Service of the Emperour *TAITSON* (whose Life he saved) Grand-Father to His Majesty, and Father of the Emperour *CHUN-TCHI*, who entirely conquered *China*. In consideration of these Wounds received in the Service of the two preceding Reigns, he was pardon'd as to his Life, and his Punishment changed into a perpetual Imprisonment, where he afterwards ended his days.

Ever since that time, the Emperour having taken the Reins of the Government into his own Hands, he has applied himself to the management of Affairs, with so much Assiduity, that he takes cognizance of all matters, and regulates them himself, after having understood the Sentiments of his Ministers of State and Council. By this continual application to Business, he has acquired such a Habit of managing all publick Affairs, that so prodigious a multitude and variety of Business, as daily were brought before him from the most remote Parts of so vast an Empire, seem'd rather to be his Diversion, than any Toil.

For which purpose, he gives duly every Morning at break of day, Audience to those of the Sovereign Courts of *Peking*, who then lay all the Petitions lodg'd with them, before him. If the said Petitions concern any thing of Moment, he sends them to the Court of *Colao*, which is properly the Council of the Empire; where, when they are examined, and an Account given concerning them to the Emperour, he decides them as he thinks fit; No Judgment of any Court not of the Council of the Empire it self being of any Validity, till approv'd of by the Emperour.

Besides, those Hours he sets aside in the Morning to give Audience, there is a certain Person of great Ability, in the nature of a Master of Requests, who all

the day long attends the Emperor's Person, wherever he goes, and receives such Petitions or other Papers, as must be delivered to His Majesty, and to hear such Persons, as have any Business to be delivered by way of mouth, of which this Gentleman is bound to give an exact Account instantly to His Majesty, and to bring back his Answer, provided they are Persons, whose province it is, to inform the Court concerning these Matters, for otherwise they meet seldom with any Encouragement.

If any of his Subjects find themselves oppressed by the *Mandarins* or Governors, they need only to enquire when the Emperor goes out of *Peking* a Hunting, or upon any other Diversion, and so to present themselves upon their Knees with their Petition open in their hands, somewhere near the High Road where he is to pass by; when most commonly the Emperor sends one of his Attendance, to enquire and examine the Matter of Complaint, and if the *Mandarins* are found guilty, they are sure to meet with most severe Punishment; But great care must be taken in this Case by the Subjects, to offer these Petitions with all the imaginable Respect and Humility due to His Majesty, expecting his coming, at a convenient distance from the High-road, if they expect to be favourably receiv'd; For if they are wanting in these Marks of Respect, and will force themselves upon him,

him, by loud Acclamations, and demanding Justice, they are push'd back by the Guards; tho' effectual Care is taken, that no hurt be done to any who come to present their Petitions, unless they should be so bold as to lose all manner of Respect; this Prince being willing to give all due Encouragement to his Subjects, to have recourse to him in their Grievances, looking upon this as the most proper Means to keep the *Mandarins* in their Duty, for fear of being accused before the Emperor. We have observed during our Stay in China, that many of the most Considerable *Mandarins* of the Empire, and who had free Access to the Prince's Person, being thus complain'd against, and found guilty of what they were charg'd with, lost not only their Employments, but were likewise severely punished, according to their Deserts.

The present Emperor never had any Favourite Minister, in whom he confided, nor has introduced such an Absolute Government in the Court, that no body dares speak to him concerning any Business that does not belong to his Province, unless he be ask'd. And, as for his own Person, he is so close in all his Affairs, that the more you approach to his Person, the more you are convinced, that his Designs are past all Discovery.

It is his Custom to require an exact Account of all Matters of Moment, and to have secret Intelligence by different Per-

Persons, of all that is transacted in the Courts of Justice, and otherwise; when he gives Audience to private persons, he asks much, but answers little. He observes with great attention every word that is spoke to him, which he re-minates upon at leisure; And to be short, there is scarce any Prince, that ever I heard of, who more seriously reflects upon all what comes before him, who knows better the Art of Dissimulation, and is a greater Master both of his Words and Secrets.

He is so happy in his Memory, as to remember for a great while after, the meanest Circumstances of Things he has once taken notice of, even to the names of Persons; neither the multitude of his Affairs, of which he daily takes cognizance himself, neither length of Time being able to erase that out of his Memory, which has been once firmly imprinted there. Of this we as well as Father *Verbiest*, have had several times Experience. Among the rest is happened one day, when the said Father was following the King in one of his Progresses, that his Majesty ask'd him the name of a certain Bird which he saw, and the name of which, Father *Verbiest* had told him in *Flemish*, several years before; The said Father not being able just then to remember the name of the said Bird, which was somewhat odd; was not a little surpris'd, to hear the Emperor ask him, whether it was not call'd so and so in *Flemish*, and that

that he should remember what he had forgot himself!

This prince has so quick an insight into Matters, that it is no easie Matter to deceive him, and such is the Solidity of his Natural Understanding and Judgment, as most generally to pitch upon the best expedient, where the Success is doubtful, and even the best Head-pieces among his Ministers of State, do readily confess, that they are more beholding to his Instructions than their Advice in most Matters of Moment.

Of this he has given frequent Instances, both whilst the Differences were on foot betwixt him and the *Muscovites*, and during the Treaty of Peace with them. As the *Muscovites* were formerly look'd upon as a very unpolish'd Nation, which had nothing that is engaging in their Conversation, and that the vast distance betwixt their Country and *Peking*, made them little regarded in *China*, as being scarce known there; so their first Embassy, which was sent to *CHON-TCHI*, the present Emperour's Father, was not as much as admitted to Audience.

For these *Muscovites* having refused to conform themselves to these slavish Ceremonies, which commonly are made use of by those who make their applications to the *Chinese* Court, they were kept up close, in a manner, like Prisoners, without having the Liberty allow'd them to see the City of *Peking*, or to converse
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with any of the Inhabitants; and being after some time sent back with their Presents, and without receiving their Credentials; This gave the first Occasion to the *Muscovites* to Invade some of the *Tartars*, Subject to the *Chinese* Empire.

The present Emperour had no more reason to fear the *Muscovites*, than his Predecessours, but wisely considering, that they might prove troublesome Neighbours to some of the *Tartars* subject to and bordering upon *China*, His Majesty judged it most advisable, to treat them with more Civility, for the Benefit of his Subjects.

Of this he gave a very remarkable Proof some years ago; For the *Muscovites*, having been forced to surrender at Discretion, the Emperour was so far from punishing them with Death, (according to the antient Custom of *China*) that he treated them very civilly; those that were willing to return into *Muscovy* he sent back with a certain allowance of Provision; such as were willing to serve him, he receiv'd among his Troops, some of whom were sent to the Capital City of the Province of *Leaorong*, the others to *Peking*.

They had each of them a House with some Land, and Slaves allotted them, and each simple Foot Souldier was made a Horse Man; The Officers were entertained in the same Station, and in better pay than they had in the *Muscovite* service.

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In the same manner he has treated the *Muscovite* Envoys, which since that time were sent to his Court, with a great deal of Civility; in defraying their Charges as long as they were within his Territories, and ordering the necessary Carriages to be provided not only for their use, but also for their whole Baggage and Merchandizes, both in going and coming, through a large Tract of Land of above three hundred Leagues. Whilst they were at *Peking*, they had all the liberty that could be granted, both in their own Persons and Traffick, without paying the usual Custom, or any molestation. The *Muscovites* being thereby made sensible of the Benefit that did accrue to their Empire by this Commerce, the desire of not losing this Advantage was one of the main reasons which induced them to conclude a Peace with the *Chineses*.

The *Muscovite* Plenipotentiaries did frankly confess to the two Fathers *Pereyra* and *Garbillon*, which were sent by the Emperour of *China* to be present at the Conferences of Peace betwixt these two Nations, That the Chief Motive, which had prevailed with his *Cesarish* Majesty to send his Plenipotentiaries to the Treaty of Peace, was the good Treatment his Subjects had of late received from the present Emperour of *China*.

It is certain that on the *Chinese* side, it was by the Emperour's absolute Authority, That it was resolved in his Council, that

that their Plenipotentiaries should meet those of *Muscovy* upon the Frontiers; this Prince looking upon it as very reasonable, to dispense with that ancient Custom of the Proud *Chineses*, who never used to send any Ambassadors to foreign Princes, unless it was to carry to them their Emperour's Commands.

The two Chiefs of this Embassy were two of the most considerable Lords of his Court; the best Head-pieces in his Great Council, and of whose Integrity he was well assured. The Treaty not being brought to a good issue the first Year, he was so far from being disgusted at the want of Success, that on the contrary, he sent his Plenipotentiaries a second time, with such full Instructions, that the Treaty was happily concluded, and the Limits settled betwixt these two Empires, to his Satisfaction.

It is more than probable, That if this Emperour would have insisted upon those extravagant *Punctilio's*, used among the *Chineses*, and would have pretended to give no better reception to the *Muscovite* Ambassadors, than what they had met with at their first Embassy sent to this Court, they would have found means to enter into an Alliance with some of the *Western Tartars*, by which means they might have proved very troublesome Neighbours to the *Chinese* Subjects on that side.

And

The History of CANG-HY,

And upon this occasion, I cannot pass by in silence, That the *Muscovites* are not the only strangers, who have been made sensible of the good Will, the present Emperour bears to them. The *Portugese* and *Holland* Ambassadors, have received such signal Proofs of his Magnanimity, during their stay in this Court; That they do freely confess, That the present Emperour's Temper is far different in this respect, from that of the *Chineses* in general, who have at all times shewn so much Aversion to Strangers, and have look'd upon them as so despicable, as not worth their keeping any Correspondence with them; Or if they vouchsafed sometimes to receive some of their Ambassadors, they were treated rather like Subjects than their Equals.

Thus much is to be said in behalf of the *Chineses*, That unless it be the *Japoneses*, the *Toankineses* and *Coreans*, who have got something of Politeness, which they are obliged for, to the *Chineses*, all their neighbouring Nations are very Savage and Barbarous; But the present Emperour, who has a much better insight into foreign Affairs than the rest, has a considerable time ago, found out the effects of this Mistake. The *Jesuits* have imprinted into his Mind, so advantageous an Idea of the *European* Kingdoms, and of some other Nations in the World; and by this continual Application to some of the best Works, as well as to Arts and Sciences flourish-

present Emperour of China.

5

flourishing in *Europe*, he has been sufficiently convinc'd, that the *Chineses* are not the Only in the World, who can boast of their being Famous in many Arts and Sciences.

This has been, in a great measure, the true Reason why this present Emperour has thought fit, to lay aside this preposterous Custom of the *Chinese* Nation, and to receive the Ambassadors of *Holland*, *Portugal*, and *Muscovy*, with all the marks of Respect and Civility; tho at the same time, they were obliged to Accommodate themselves in this point to the ancient Custom of this Empire, as to Treat concerning what they were to transact, with the Courts appointed for that purpose.

But this singular Wisdom and Conduct did never appear with such Lustre, than during these several intestine Commotions, which happened under his Reign.

The first and most Famous of all, was the Rebellion rais'd by one *Ousan-Goner*, who, having brought a considerable number of *Tartars* into *China*, and thereby deserved the Title and Dignity of King of Feudatary Prince of a certain Province, from the present Emperour's Father, at last entred into Cabals against the *Tartars*, with an Intention to drive them out of *China*.

He was at first so successful, that in a little time, he made himself Master of one half of this vast Empire, without much Opposition, and it was next to a
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Miracle, that the rest escaped his Hands; the *Chineſes* declaring, wherever he came, for his Party; in compariſon of whom, the *Tartars* were but a Handfull of People, who were not able alone to ſtop the Current of his Victorious Arms. But ſuch was the Prudence and Conduct of this young Prince, who then was not above twenty years old, that what he wanted in Force, he ſupplied by his own Ability.

To ſpeak without Flattery, it was chiefly owing to this Prince, who managed all Matters in Perſon; it was, I ſay, owing to the wiſe Precautions he took with the Chief Governours of the Provinces, and other Military Officers among the *Chineſes*, that he not only kept in Obedience thoſe who had not had the Opportunity as yet to join with the Rebel *Onſan-Gouei*, but alſo brought over a great many of the Revolted *Chineſes*.

Ths true, he did not appear in Perſon at the Head of his Army's; but this was an effect of his Wiſdom, being ſufficiently convinc'd, that his Preſence was of Great Conſequence at *Peking*, to keep the Northern Princes in Obedience, and to diſperſe by his Royal Preſence theſe Factions, which were carried on in that City againſt his Intereſt, and which might otherwiſe have proved of more dangerous Conſequence, than the whole Force of *Onſan-Gouei*.

To be short, he acted in this Affair not like a young Prince, but with such precaution, that no more could have been expected from the most accomplished Politician. He was day and night present at the Councils, and ready at all times to dispatch his Orders according to the different Exigencies of Affairs, concerning which, and all the least Circumstances that attended it, he had constant Intelligence given him; it being the most dangerous that ever threatened the *Chinese* Empire; forasmuch as it proved the Source of many other Factions, which however, he happily suppressed before they came to any Maturity, by his prudent Conduct.

The first of these Factions was a Conspiracy among the Slaves of *Peking*, who being all *Chinese*, had agreed among themselves, to Murder all their Masters that were *Tartars* by Off-spring, in one Night; and the better to compass their Design, they were afterwards to set Fire to four or five places of the City. But there being so vast a number concern'd in this Conspiracy, as scarce to know one another, the same was by Accident discovered by several of the Accomplices, some days before it was to be put in Execution; whereupon the Emperour, having seized upon and punished with present Death some of the Ring-leaders, he broke the Neck of the whole Conspiracy in a few days, by granting a General Amnesty to the rest.

This Faction was soon after followed by another: For the Kings of *Canton* and *Eokien*, being likewise of the *Chinese* Race, when they saw the *Tartars* embolden'd by the Revolt of *Ouson-Gouci*, did look upon this as the fittest Opportunity to shake off the *Tartarian* Yoke, and to make themselves Sovereigns each in their own Province.

Much about the same time there revolted another King of the Race of *Mongo*, Chief of the Head branch of those Princes descended from the *West-Tartarian* Emperours, who Reigned over *China* before the Imperial Family of *Taining*; which is above three hundred years ago, and who, after they were chased from thence, regain'd the Imperial Throne a second time, and reigned till the 30th year of this Age, when these Princes ruin'd themselves by Intestine Divisions.

For, the present Emperour's Grand-father, laying hold of this Opportunity to ascend the Imperial Throne, knew so well how to foment these Quarrels, till he found means to reduce them, one after another, under his Obedience, not expecting even the Chief of the Family, who retained hitherto the Name of Emperour, and was forced by his own Subjects, to submit like the rest. But the *Tartars* of the Race of *Manchoon*, to render their Subjection more specious and easie, did, after the entire Conquest of *China*, bestow the Title of King upon this Emperour,

as well as upon several others of the most Potent Princes of the Family of *Mongo*.

Whilst the present Emperour was engaged against the three beforementioned Rebellious *Chinese* Princes or Kings, some Officers belonging to this Prince, who is Chief of the Principal Branch of the Family of *Mongo*, being come to *Peking*, and having observed, That the Place was not provided with any considerable Number of Troops, the Garrison consisting only of a few young, raw Soldiers, they did not fail to give Intelligence of it to their Master, who being encouraged to improve so favourable a Conjunction, resolved to try his Fortune, whether he could recover his antient Right, and the Empire of *China*.

But whilst he was making the necessary Leagues with the other neighbouring Princes of the Race of *Mongo*, the thing could not be carried on with so much secrecy, but that it reached the Emperour's Ears, who with an incredible Resolution, sent immediately a small Body of Troops, composed partly of the Garrison of *Peking*, partly of those Quartered in the Province of *Leaotung*, bordering upon the Territories of the revolted Prince, against him, whereby the Enemy being bereaved of the Succours he expected from the other Princes his Allies, was forced, with what Forces he could bring together in haste of his own, to fight the Army of the Emperour, who were advanced to

the very heart of his Province, where he was entirely put to the Rout, and taken Prisoner in the pursuit, with his Brother and Children.

He made use of the same Method, and with the same Success upon many other Occasions, during the Civil War; for with that small number of Troops, who were entirely to his devotion, he always was successful against the Rebels, tho' they stood it out to the last with a great deal of Bravery.

Among the Heads of the Rebellion, even many, who did not stir, or had any share in these Commotions, were seiz'd and put to Death, with all their Children, without distinction of Age or Sex; pursuant to that most rigorous Constitution of the *Chinse*, according to which, Rebellion is punished in the ninth Generation, which was done with an Intention to extinguish the whole Race of a rebellious Faction.

In the mean while, the Emperour, whose Nature is in no wise inclin'd to Cruelty, was so merciful to the Brothers of the Kings of *Canton* and *Fokien*, that he would not let them receive the least Damage either in their Persons or Estates, knowing them to have had no hand in the Rebellion. But, because he found himself under a necessity to put to Death some of the Kindred of *Onsan-Gonei*, that were as yet very young, he issued out a *Manifesto*, in which he protested, that it

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was not according to his Inclinations, to put them to Death; but that he was constrained to yield to the Law of the Empire, and to the Advice of the Princes of the Blood, and of other Sovereign Courts of the Empire, who were all for maintaining the Force of this Law, to strike Terror into the Subject against Rebellion, by the Dread of the worst of all the Punishments which can be inflicted upon the *Chingse*, which is to leave no Posterity behind them.

Thus the Emperour did not only reunite those Provinces with the Crown, which had shaken off the Yolk, but also those who were dignified with the Title of Kingdoms in favour of three Generals of the *Chingse* Army, who having embraced the Party of the *Tartars*, were very instrumental in the Conquest of *China*.

He had also the good Fortune, to exterminate the Remainders of those ancient *Chineses*, who rather than submit to the *Tartarian* Yolk, when they first entered *China*, chose rather to follow that Famous

Pirate *Conefin*. It was under the Reign of *CHONTCHI*, Father of the present Emperour, that this Pirate attempted no less than the Conquest of the whole Empire. For which purpose, he was advanced with a very formidable Army as far as the City of *Nanking*, which in all likelihood he would have been soon Master of, if it had not been bravely defended by a certain *Tar-*

The History of CANG-HY,

tarian Commander, who being sensible that the Fate of the Empire depended on the Preservation of this Place, did, not only with a small number of Troops, repulse the Enemies in their several Attacks, but at last, also surprised the Pyrate and his Army, which he put to an entire Rout one Night, when they were overwhelmed with Drink, having the day before celebrated the Birth-day of their General.

This was the same Famous Pyrate, who, after he had lost his whole Army in this Occasion, retired with his few Remainers to the Isle of *Formosa*, from whence he chased the *Hollanders*, and established himself there. His Son maintained himself after his Father's Death, upon that Island, till the present Emperour of *China*, forced him to submit to his Obedience, with all his Subjects, except a few, who retired to the Kingdom of *Kamboja*.

Thus it may be said without flattery, That the present Emperour, *CANG-HI*, has acquired more Glory in subduing so many Rebels, and maintaining himself in the Throne, against so many dangerous Enemies, than the Famous *Amurong* his Uncle, and Guardian to his Father, did, by the Conquest of the whole Empire. For the Conquest of *China* was not very dearly bought by the *Tartars*, the *Chineses* striving to destroy one another at that time, and the bravest among them siding with

with the *Tartars* against their Countrymen.

The Fire of Rebellion being thus extinguished, and Tranquility restored to the Empire, the next care the Emperour took, was to re-establish a good Order, and suppress such Abuses as were crept in to the Government, during the Licentiousness of these intestine Wars, in lieu of which, he endeavoured to re-establish the antient Vigour of the Laws, and introduce Plenty among his Subjects.

But as he knew, that nothing could so much conduce to the encompassing of this Design, than if Ministers of known Ability and Probity were put in Offices of Trust, both in the Court and Provinces; it was his main Study to chuse such as were best qualified for that purpose, and and to encourage such in their Duty as were in Offices before.

It is to be observed, that the Constitution of the *Chinese* Government is absolutely Monarchical, all depending on One single Head. The inferiour Officers have their Dependance entirely on their Superiours; The Governour of each City regulates alone all Affairs belonging to the City under his Jurisdiction; and so does each Governour in his Province. This Form of Government, which in it self considered, is very perfect, requires however, That the Governours of Cities and Provinces, who are invested with the Royal Authority, be of such approved

Integrity and Probity, as to be Proof against all manner of Corruption.

It is almost Incredible, what effectual Care the present Emperour takes in the Choice of his *Mandarins*, especially those of the Provinces and Cities; and with how watchful an eye he over-looks all their Transactions. He does not rest satisfied with the Account he receives from the Court of the *Mandarins*, and with the Persons that are recommended by them; but he has every where his Spies, who furnish him with secret Intelligence from whence it comes; that he often chuses quite otherwise, and contrary to their Recommendations; his Chief aim being to advance every one according to his Deserts. For, whenever he observes in any one of his Ministers a more than ordinary Capacity, he never fails to give him particular Marks of his Favour, by bestowing upon him some of the most Eminent and Considerable Offices: On the other hand, if they make the least false steps in the Management of their Trust, this is sufficient to make them lose their Office, if it reaches the Emperour's Ears; But, if any one be convicted of Bribery, he is sure to meet with a Prince who is inexorable in that Point, and without the least Respect to his Degree or Quality, he loses not only his Place, but is Exemplarily punished besides.

From

From hence it is, that we have seen such continual Changes among the *Mandarins* of all degrees. For within the first four Years, whilst we tarried at *Peking*, most of the Governours and Vice-Roys of the Provinces, as well as the Chief Members of the several Tribunals or Courts of *Peking* were displaced; for the Emperour keeps so watchful an Eye over them, that it is next to an impossibility that any of their Faults should long escape his Knowledge.

We were no sooner arrived at this Court, but we saw four *Calao*, two *Tartars*, and two *Chineses*, deposed from their Offices at once: as was likewise the President of the first Tribunal of the Six, which are the Supreme Courts of the Empire, tho' he was Father-in-law to the eldest Son of the Emperour. At our very first coming to the Royal Pallace, we were shewn one of these beforementioned *Calao*, sitting near one of the Gates, and supplying the Place of a Common Sergeant of the Guards; the Emperour, for his Mortification, having condemn'd him to this Employment.

Much about the same time, two or three *Viceroy*s were brought to *Peking*, one of them in Chains, without the least Attendants, and being afterwards consist of having exacted Great Sums from the Province under his Jurisdiction, he was condemn'd to Death, the other Two escaped with losing their Offices, their Crimes

Crimes being not of so high a Nature.

In the next following Year, the *Viceroy* of the Province of *Tche-Kiang*, who was always a professed Enemy of the Christian Religion, and did with all his Might oppose our Stay in China, being accused of Malversation, was condemned by the Emperor himself, not only to be deprived of his Office, but also to a perpetual Banishment into *Tartary*.

Thus this Prince has laid so strict an Obligation upon himself, to conform his Reign in all Respects to the Laws of Equity, and to advance none but Deserving Persons to any Places of Trust, that there is scarce one Instance to be given, when either out of Partiality or Self-Interest he has acted contrary to this so laudable a Resolution.

Neither is it only in this particular Care of chusing well qualified *Mandarins*, and his Vigilancy over their Actions, that the Emperor's Goodness to his People is conspicuous; whenever there happens any publick Calamity in his Realm, his Compassion and Inquietude are most evident Proofs; that he looks upon himself rather a Father, than a Sovereign of his People.

Of this we saw our selves, several Instances in two Years. For, there happening a great Scarcity, occasioned for want of Rain, in some of the Provinces, which had reduced the Inhabitants to the utmost degree of Misery; this Prince was

so sensibly touched with their Calamity, that he not only remitted the whole Annual Tribute, which amounts to betwixt thirty and forty Millions of Livres, and caused the publick Granaries to be let open; but he likewise ordered both Corn and Money to be distributed among the most Necessitous of the People.

And the more effectually to supply the Necessities of the Poor, he gave leave to such of the richer Sort, as had qualified themselves by taking the necessary Degrees for *Mandarin*, and had undergone the Examen, to buy those Offices, and to furnish a cert. in Quantity of Corn, to be sent to these places, where they stood most in need of it; And, because there flock'd great Numbers of these Miserable Wretches daily to *Peking*, in hopes of finding some Means of Subsistence there, the Emperour found out a way, at once to supply their Necessities, and to do something for the publick Good; For he ordered them to be employed in rebuilding those Tribunals that are within the Precinct of the Court, by which means he also prevented those Disorders which are the ordinary Effects of an idle Life.

Upon the occasion of any publick Calamity, he debarb himself of his ordinary Divertisements; which else he frequently takes at one of his two Royal Country Seats, not far from *Peking*. We have seen him, during all this Time of that Scarcity of Corn, keep close in his Pallace,

Pallace, without appearing in publick, unless when he went with his whole Court to the Temple, dedicated to the *Syn*, there, (according to antient Custom observed upon such like Occasions among the *Chinese*) to pray for Rain, by publick Prayers and Sacrifices, which he offers to the Supreme Lord of Heaven and Earth: being much more enlightened in this point, than most of the Modern *Chinese*, who being in this fundamental point of Religion, degenerated from their Ancestors (as they are in many other points), do adore the Material Heavens in lieu of that Supreme Intelligence, which governs the Universe with an infinite Power, Wisdom and Goodness.

As often as this Prince takes his progress into some of his Provinces (which he does from time to time) on purpose to be inform'd concerning the true Condition of his People, and in what manner they are Govern'd by the *Mandarins*; it is his Custom to appear with a more Affable and Familiar Air than at other times, and to permit even the meanest Workmen or Peasant to approach his person. He speaks to them with so much Affability and Sweetness, as Charms them to the Heart; and among other Questions, which he commonly asks them, he seldom fails to ask, *Whether they are satisfied with their present Governours*. If he finds any real Occasion of Complaint against any one of the *Mandarins*, he is sure to be dis-

possessed

possessed of his place immediately; as on the other hand, if his Conduct is recommended by the general Approbation of the People, this is a sure Step to higher Dignities.

It is about seven years ago, when the Emperour in one of his Progresses to the Southern Provinces, pass'd through *Houng-an*, which is a large City in the Province of *Nan-king*, and the ordinary place of Residence of the *Tsong-tso*, or Superintendant General of all the Waters, Rivers, and Canals of the Empire, which is one of the most Considerable places without the Court. This *Tsong-tso*, being accused of Malversation in his Office, and upon the point of being displaced, besides the paying of a Great Fine; the people of this City presented a Petition to the Emperour, in favour of the said *Tsong-tso*, who had no sooner perused the Petition, much in Commendation of this Mandarin, but without taking any further Information, he restored him immediately to his Office; as an evident Mark, that nothing could be able to make a more sensible Impression upon his Mind in respect of the Mandarins, than if they treated the people in such a manner, as to be considered by them rather like Fathers than Governours.

Though it is beyond all Dispute, that the Emperour of China, is the most potent Prince in the World, both in respect of his vast Revenues, and the great extent and

and Goodness of his Territories; nevertheless is he a great Enemy to Luxury, in respect of his own person; being in this point an exact Observer of one of the Fundamental Laws of the *Chinese* Monarchy, which forbids all excessive Expences in the Great Ones; and the Prince himself, unless it be with relation to the publick Good.

Not but that the Expences of his Household surpass without all Contradiction, much those of the most Magnificent Courts of *Europe*, by reason of that almost innumerable Multitude of Officers and others, who daily have their Subsistence from Court; But in respect of his own Person, he is the most Exact pattern of Frugality and Modesty. 'Tis true, he is serv'd at his Table in Gold and Silver, according to his Grandeur, but in other Matters not regulated by Custom, he never shews the least Inclination to Nicety; being contented with ordinary Dishes; and such is his Sobriety, that there cannot be one Instance given when he committed the least Excess in that kind.

His Palace is of a vast Circumference, resembling in Bigness a considerable City, and to look upon the many large Structures which it contains, and which are all covered with Tyles varnished with a Gold Colour, affording a most Glorious sight, it is no difficult matter to judge that this Palace was intended to be the Seat of a Great Monarch; But as for the Apartments

ments and their Furnitures, even not excepting the Emperour's Lodgings, their Chief Ornament is, that they are kept clean and neat, there being nothing to be seen but some Pictures, a little Gilding, and plain Silk Hangings, of which indeed there is great plenty, because they are so common in China.

He has built himself a Country-house, about two leagues distant from Peking, where he takes frequently his Divertisements, and retires thither for a good part of the Year. But besides two Great Cisterns and some Canals, which have been made by his Orders, there is nothing to be seen there that bears the least proportion to the Magnificence of so Rich and Great a Monarch. Every thing indeed is very Neat; but in respect of both the Structure it self, and in respect of the Gardens, and the whole Design of the Place, it does not approach to some Country Houses belonging to some Persons of Quality about Paris.

His Modesty appears as well in his Habit as in all other Things which serve for his proper life. For his Cloaths, unless it be some Sables and Ermins, which as they are very common in this Court, so he makes use of them for the Winter Season for Linings, ware of a purple Silk, which is so common all over China, that every body, unless the poorest sort, makes use of them.

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In a Rainy day you shall see him sometimes dress'd in a Wollen Cassock, such as is worn among the ordinary Sort of people in *China*; so, we have seen him sometimes in the Summer appear in a Habit made of nothing but Callicoe, which is the ordinary Wear of the *Chineses* in their Houses. Unless it be upon some Festival, the only thing which is remarkable and magnificent in his Habit, is a very large Pearl, which during the Summer Season he wears upon his Bonnet, made after the *Tartarian* Fashion.

His Chair in which he is carried both within and without the Precinct of the Pallace, when he has no mind to go on Horseback, is no more than a kind of a Litter, made of ordinary Wood Varnish'd over, adorned on the Corners with Copper plates, or Guild Carvings of Wood. He appears no more Magnificent when he goes abroad on Horse-back, the Trappings of his Horse having no other Ornament than a pair of Stirrups of Iron very neatly gild, and the Reins of his Bridle being of yellow Silk.

To comprehend all in few words, there appears nothing in any thing which belongs to his Person, which has the least Resemblance to that Pride and Pomp, which is so much affected by the other *Asiatick* Princes; and it may be truly said of him, That he is sensible, that the true Lustre and Grandeur of a Prince does not consist so much in the exterior Pomp, as in their

their own Vertues; especially since it must be confess'd, That, as his Treasury is vastly Rich, his Empire abounding in all manner of Things, and the *Chinese* naturally inclin'd to Industry and all sort of Handy-works, he might with as much ease exceed all the other Princes of *Asia* in Pomp and Magnificence, as his Empire has the preference before theirs both in Extent and Riches.

But to let the World see, that it is not out of Avarice or any sordid Temper of his own, that he thus avoids all Profuseness and Luxury in Matters relating to his own Person; he shews himself as Liberal and Magnificent in any thing which has respect to the Publick, as he is Sparing in his private Expences. He is not prodigal of Millions, when they come in Competition with the Welfare of the Empire. He does not grudge to bestow Immense Sums in repairing the publick Edifices, to keep the Rivers, Channels, Bridges, and Banks, and such like Things, which serve for the Conveniency of Commerce, and Ease of the People, in good Repair: From whence it is easie to judge, that, if he retrenches something from his superfluous private Expences; he Husbands it for the Benefit of the publick Good, in order to employ it for the more exigent Occasions of the State, the Chief aim of this Prince being, to be considered by his Subjects as their Father, not their Master.

Of this he gave a most Eminent proof about five years ago. The greatest part of his Soldiers (of whom there is a great Number at *Peking*) were reduced to great Extremity by reason of their Debts, which they had contracted from time to time, the greatest part of their Pay being scarce sufficient to pay the Interest of what they owed. This could not be imputed to any thing else, but the Ill-handry of the Soldiers themselves, (or at least of their Father's; For their Pay is both very good, and exactly paid every Month; and when they first settled themselves at *Peking*, they had Houses, Grounds, and Slaves allotted them, sufficient for an honourable Maintenance, every one proportionably to his Quality. Nevertheless the Emperour was no sooner inform'd concerning their present Condition, but being touched with Compassion, he ordered immediately their Accomps to be Stated, and to be paid out of his Treasury, the whole amounting to above sixteen Millions of Livres.

And to prevent the like for the future, he issued his Orders, That no private person should presume to advance any Money to the Soldiers upon their Pay, under penalty of losing the Debt; but to supply at the same time the Occasions of the Soldiers in case of Necessity; he commanded, that upon any necessitous Occasion Money should be advanced them out of the Treasury, to a certain limited Sum,

Sum, to be deducted by little and little out of their Pay, without putting them under the necessity of paying Interest-Money, or rather Extortions, as are usually paid at Peking, when people are driven to the necessity of Borrowing Money.

About the same time, a Petition being presented to him from the His or ordinary *Mandarins* of his Guards, (of whom there are betwixt seven and eight Hundred) and from some other Officers belonging to his Household, That they were much in Debt, and begg'd Relief from His Majesty; he ordered the Officers of his Household eight hundred Livres a-piece, and four hundred to each of such of the inferior Officers, as were unable to pay their Debts, and whose Duty it is to Attend his Person in the progresses he makes throughout the Empire. This Sum which amounted in the whole to above two Millions of Livres, he ordered to be paid out of his privy Purse; because, said he, *It would be unjust to lay the Burthen of these Debts, which have been contracted by my Domestick Servants, upon the Publick Treasury.*

This Extraordinary Generosity of the Emperour, had very near proved the Occasion of a Revolt among those of the Chinese Horse, who being composed of Slaves, as they could not contract any Debts, so they had had no share in the Emperour's Liberality. It is to be observed, that there is a considerable num-

ber of these Horsemen entertain'd among the *Tartars*, and, that as their Pay is very good, so they for the most part, maintain thereby their Families. Near five thousand of these Slaves assembled themselves near the Royal Pallace, in order to present a Petition to the Emperour, in which they begg'd to be included in the Number of those that were to receive such ample Marks of his Bounty.

There being not one among all the Courtiers there present, who shewed any Inclination to prefer their Petition to His Majesty, they remained for some time in an humble posture, bare-headed and upon their Knees, in the Great outward Court of the Pallace; But being soon after inform'd by some that pass'd that Way, That the Emperour was gone to take a Walk in the Garden behind the Pallace, they surrounded the Garden, and with great Clamour, desired His Majesty to extend his Bounty to them as well as the other Soldiers, they having been ready upon all Occasions to serve him, and sacrifice their Lives, for his Interest, with the same Zeal as the rest. But the Emperour taking another way, did, as if he had not heard or understood their Meaning; whereupon some time afterwards, word being brought to the Emperour, That they had forced the first Gate, that leads to the Garden, inspite of the Guards; who were not able to resist their Number, he commanded eight of the Ring-leaders to

be seised instantly, and the rest to be beaten out of the Court with Sticks; which being done accordingly, this mutinous Rabble was dispersed in an instant.

But as His Majesty had by this last Act of Generosity, given very ample demonstrations of his Affection and Tenderness for the Soldiery in General; so, upon this Occasion, he resolved to let them see, That he would not suffer himself to be abused, and that he knew how to punish their Insolence. For which Reason, these eight Mutineers were ordered to be tried before the Criminal Court, as well as their Masters, pursuant to an antient Custom among the *Tartars*, according to which the Masters bare a Share in the punishment inflicted upon their Slaves, in case of any Misbehaviour, the better to oblige them to keep a watchful eye over their Slaves, that they may not transgress upon others.

By this Court the eight Slaves were the next day condemned to Death, and their Masters to a perpetual Banishment into *Tartary*.

The Emperour however extended his Mercy towards them in mitigating this Sentence, which was only executed upon one, who having been the Chief Ring-leader of this Mutiny, was beheaded the same day before Ncoli, and his Master, who was one of the *Mandarins* of the Emperour's own Guards, lost his place, and was banished into the remotest parts of *Tartary*.

The other seven escaped with being soundly Whipt, and as a further Punishment were forced to carry, for three Months after about their Necks the *Chinese Cangue*; which is nothing else but two thick Boards join'd together in the middle, like our Pillory Boards, of about three foot Square, and near eighty pound Weight.

Their Masters were Graciously pardon'd by the Emperour, as well as the other Soldiers, and their principal Commanders, who threw themselves at His Majesty's feet, excusing their Fault in not preventing the Design of these Mutineers, and asking his Pardon, ready to submit themselves to any Punishment he should think fit to inflict upon them for the neglect of their Duty. Thus this Great Prince, knowing how to keep an equal Ballance betwixt Mercy and Severity, makes himself both beloved and fear'd by his Subjects, who thereby are kept under a most strict Obligation of performing their Duty.

As he is in his own Person the greatest Enemy of Idleness and Laziness; but the greatest Admirer of Business, without being the least sparing of his own Person, so it is his Chiefest Study to prevent his Subjects; but especially the *Tartars* of the Race of *Mantcheou*, from being ensnared by the Luxurious Life of the *Chineses*, being sensible, that if they once were brought to tread in the footsteps of the *Chineses* as to this Point, it would be a very difficult Task

Task for them to maintain themselves in China, which they Conquered with a Handful of Men; only, because they are inured to all manner of Hardships, as their Enemies were swallowed up in Luxury, which had rendred them quite Effeminate.

'Tis for this Reason that the Emperour, who is a great Master in the Politicks of this Government, sends very rarely any of the *Tartars* as *Mandarins* to the Southern Provinces of the Empire, where they are more addicted to this Vice than in other Parts; and, if he is sometimes obliged to send some thither, he recalls them as soon as possibly he can. 'Tis for the same Reason of State, that he goes so frequently abroad a Hunting; and that almost every year he takes once, if not twice, a Progress into the Mountainous parts of *Tartary*.

For, his Guards and Officers of the Houshold, as well as most of the Great Men of the Court, or Chief Commanders of his Forces, and other *Mandarins* of the Court of *Peking*, being obliged by their Places (at least each in his Turn,) to attend the Emperour's Person wherever he goes; it is upon these Occasions, that by his Example, he animates them to endure the Fatigues of the Campaign, and to follow him wherever he leads the Way, where he is sure never to be sparing of his Person.

For in these Progresses you shall see him appear in a very common Habit, sometimes a whole day on Horseback, traversing the Mountains and Forrests, so that he tires sometimes nine or ten Horses in a day; and oftentimes, according to the disposition of the Ground, does not grudge to march on foot for a considerable time.

When he returns at Night to his Tent, he is so far from taking any Repose, that he first dispatches all Matters before him, in the same manner, as if he were in his Palace at Peking. He peruses and takes in Account of all Petitions laid before him, without delay; which oftentimes takes up good part of the Night, so that he spares these hours from his Sleep, which he has employed in the Day-time for his Diversion. And it is observable, that he leads this sort of Life not for four or five days only, but sometimes for three or four Months together, without Intermision.

Father Gerbillon, who among all the Jesuits attends him most frequently in his Progresses, has attested to me, That he has seen him often all covered with Dust and Sweat, continue the Chase, without changing his Linnen or Cloaths after they came to the appointed Place of rest; and that he has seen him for several Hours together, sitting and exposing himself to the Heat of the Rays of the Sun, without an Umbrello, which constantly attend him wherever he stirs, in great Numbers.

I have heard the same Author, *Gerbillion*, relate it to others of our Society, That in one of his Progresses, at a great distance from *Peking*, the Emperor and his Court were forced to pitch their Tents in a place where it was very difficult to be supplied with any other Provisions, but what the Place afforded, so, that most of his Retinue were forced to be contented with Beef and Mutton, of which you meet with good Store in *Tartary*. The Emperor, to let them see, that at this Juncture, he could live and be satisfied with what the rest had, ordered, That nothing but Beef and Mutton should be Serv'd upon his Table, till such time that they receiv'd new Supplies of Provisions, sufficient for all the rest of his Attendance,

By these Means he encourages his Subjects to use themselves to undergo all sorts of Fatigues, being never sparing of his own Person upon such like Occasions; as on the other hand; he is sure to lay some Mortification or other upon those, whom he finds addicted to an Idle and Lazy Life.

For which reason, to prevent the Children of the Chief Men of his Court, of the *Tartarian* Race, or of those *Chineses*, who have espoused their Interest, from embracing an idle Life, he makes it his constant Custom to prefer them to such places as are not to be Officiated without a great deal of Trouble,

So soon as they are of a fit Age to go abroad, he makes them take care and lead his Hounds, when he goes a Hunting; or others he employs in managing his Hawks and other Birds of Prey. Some are employed in boiling Tea and other Dishes for his Use, and in serving them at his Table; some in making Bows and Arrows for his own and his Son's Use. Those who are to be preferred before others, by reason of their Great Quality, or on whom the Emperour intends to bestow some particular Favour, are made *Mansharins* of his Guards, who lead a very Toilsome Life, being obliged by their Station to be upon the Guard both Day and Night, at least one day in six, to attend every Morning early at Court, and to follow the Emperour in his Progresses.

As they are commonly chosen out of those who have considerable Fortunes to expect from their Parents or Kindred; so they are the better qualified to bear the Expences of these Journeys, which are very chargeable, and would be the ruine of People of Moderate Estates, by reason of the great number of Horses and Servants they are obliged to carry along with them; when they are a Hunting in remote places, where meeting sometimes with inhabitable Desarts, they are forced to provide themselves beforehand with all manner of Necessaries for their Sustainance and Conveniency.

Besides,

Besides, that thereby these young Gentlemen are inured to all manner of Fatigues and Hardships, the Emperour likewise reaps this Advantage by their constant Attendance upon his Person, to meet with frequent Opportunities to approve their Ability; according to which they are afterwards Advanced to the most Eminent Dignities in the Empire.

All these beforementioned Qualifications, would questionless be judged more than sufficient among other Nations, to place this Prince among the most Famous Hero's; But the *Chineses*, who measure the Ability and Qualifications of Great Persons to be entrusted with the Management of publick Affairs, by their Skill and Knowledge in all manner of Arts and Sciences, would scarce look upon him (as they do) as one of the Greatest Monarchs that ever ascended the *Chinese* Throne, if he were not as well Accomplished in this, as in other Matters.

It is without question, for no other reason, than to conform himself to the predominant *Genius* of the *Chinese* Nation, that he applied himself with so much Assiduity to the Study of all the Learning and Sciences in vogue among the *Chineses*, that there are few Books of Note in that Language, but what he has taken the pains to peruse.

He has got a great part of the Works of *Confucius* by heart; these being considered among the *Chineses*, as the Originals

nals of all their Sacred Books, and revered as such. To attain to a more perfect understanding of all the most difficult Passages therein contained, he has caused certain Commentaries to be made upon them for his own Use, both in the *Chinese* and *Tartarian* Languages, by the most Able Doctors of the Empire; many of whom were employed for ten or twelve Years together, to bring this Work to perfection; and at the same time to explain the Text to the Emperour. The better to shew his Veneration for this most antient Doctrine of the *Chinese*, he did compose the Prefaces himself, which were put before each of these Commentaries, and published by his Authority.

He likewise caused the Universal History of *China*, to be Translated into the *Tartarian* Language; and the first Translation not being so exact in all its parts as he desired, he ordered a second to be made, which as it was more perfect, so it was augmented with some additional Notes, for the better understanding of some difficult passages. He is so absolute a Master of the whole Body of this History, that, notwithstanding its vast extent, you can scarce mention any passage in it, but what occurs immediately to his Memory.

Of this we had the opportunity to observe a most remarkable Instance about six years ago. The Emperour had ordered a certain Inscription to be made upon the Tomb of his Uncle on the Mothers-side;

who

who had not long before lost his Life in a Battle fought in *Tartary* against the King of *Eluth*, who is one of the *West-Tartarian* Princes, and had with a considerable Force invaded the Frontiers of *China*.

The Doctor who was pitch'd upon to compose it, and who was look'd upon as one of the best of the Imperial College, had; by what mistake, I know not, made a comparison betwixt this Uncle of the Emperour and a Famous General among the *Chineses*, who in effect, had deservedly acquired the Reputation of a Brave and Great General; but, who besides other ill Qualities, was stigmatiz'd for want of Loyalty to his Prince: As for the rest, the whole was extremely well done, so it met with the general Approbation of all the Doctors, who were to revise it, and of the President of the College himself, who being at the same time President of the Tribunal of Rites, did present it to the Emperour, who always takes notice of any thing of Moment.

But what had escaped the Sagacity of so many Learned Doctors, who are considered here as Oracles of all the Sciences known among the *Chineses*, and who by their Profession, ought to be particularly well vers'd in History, was at first not discovered by the Emperour. For, this Prince, recalling to his Memory, beyond what all the rest had done, the Defects charged upon this General in the *Chinese* History, who had lived above two thousand

land years before; and being sensible that this Comparillon would rather tend to the Dishonour of his Uncle, than to transmit his Great Name to posterity; after he had strictly examined all the Circumstances of the Matter, he resolved to punish this Oversight in the Doctor, who had been the Author of the Inscription, by Banishing him into the Province of *Leao-tong*; and the President, who had the Revising of it, with the Loss of his Place,

The present Emperour is likewise well vers'd both in the Rhetorick and Poetry of the *Chineses*, being a nice Judge both of the *Chinese* and *Tartarian* Languages; both which he writes in with the greatest Exactness imaginable, and excels in Politeness of his Speech, the most refined of all his Courtiers. To be short, there is not any kind of Learning in *China*, but what he is a Great Master of. He is very Curious in his Library, which is composed of all the Valuable Books to be met with in the whole Empire; and many of approved Ability are employed, to search in all places after good Books, out of which the Emperour frequently chuses such, as he judges fit to have a place in his Library.

Besides these, there are many others, whose constant Business it is, to Translate the best *Chinese* Books into the *Tartarian* Language; which is a great Addition to the last, and a vast Advantage especially to the *Tartars* of *Manchou*, as well as to the Missiona-

Missionaries, they being not well vers'd in the *Chinese* Characters, by reason of their great variety, could otherwise not attain to the Knowledge of the *Chinese* Language, and consequently of their best Books, without applying themselves for several years to that Study, which by the Conveniency of these Translations, (easie to be understood in comparison of the *Chinese* Language) they apprehend without any great difficulty.

The Arts and Sciences of the *Chinese*, are not the only Delight of this Prince; for as he judges with the greatest Nicety and Exactness of every thing he thinks worth his taking notice of; so there is not any Science in *Europe*, that ever came to his Knowledge, but he shewed a great Inclination to be instructed in it. The first Occasion which had a more than ordinary Influence upon his Mind, happened (as he was pleas'd to tell us himself) upon a Difference arisen betwixt *Tang quan-sien*, the Famous Author of the last Hersecution in *China*, and Father *Ferdinand Verbiest*, of the Society of *Jesuits*. The Dispute was concerning the *Chinese* Astronomy, which this Impostor maintain'd to be very perfect, and not to want any Reformation from the *European* Astronomers, tho' it was well known, that he understood neither. 'Tis true, he was made President of the Mathematical Tribunal; but for his Advancement to this Dignity, he was not so much beholding to his Ability,

lity, as to his perverted Zeal for the ancient Rites of his Country and Religion, in opposition to those who endeavoured to spread the Christian Doctrine among the *Chineses*.

Notwithstanding which, most of the Chief *Mandarins* of the Court, who were not well vers'd in Matters of this Nature, and prepossessed with a good Opinion of things in relation to their Native Country. Those also who were Members of the Mathematical Tribunal, jealous of their own Reputation; and looking upon it as a signal Affront to see themselves Corrected by Foreigners, did with all their Main and Might espouse *Yang-quang sien's* Quarrel. Some few Persons of Authority and Credit there were, who, without the least regard to their own Interest, frequently declared in all places wherever there was the least Opportunity, That the Calculations of the Ephemerides made by the *European* Fathers Missionaries, were always conformable to the most exact Observations they could make; whereas on the contrary, the Calculations of the *Chineses*, founded upon the Principles of their Astronomy, proved always defective,

The Emperour was then scarce seventeen years of Age; and there was at that time a grand Combination of all the Tribunals against the *European* Astronomy, who in a General Assembly, held for that purpose, resolved to request the
Empe-

Emperour to give a Decisive Sentence in Favour of the *Chinese* Astronomy. But he proceeded with more Caution in this Matter, than could be expected from his Age; For being resolved to take cognizance of the Matter himself, and to stop the Mouth of all the vain Pretenders to this Noble Science, he sent both to Father *Verbieft* and *Tang-quang-sien*, who appearing in the Council to give an account of what was to be proposed to them, he asked them in publick, whether they could by some Experiment or other make it appear to the Eye, which of these two Astronomers was the most exact in its Calculations? *Tang-quang-sien* stood mute, but Father *Verbieft* offered to the Emperour, That if His Majesty would appoint a Stick to be given of what length he pleased, that he and *Tang-quang-sien* would endeavour to determine exactly in what place the Shadow of it must fall the next day at Noon. The Emperour having approved of this Proposition, and fixed a certain Stick, Father *Verbieft* immediately went to work, and by his Calculation demonstrated in what place the Shadow must fall precisely at Noon the next day. Father *Verbieft*'s Calculation having been fully proved by the Event, and *Tang-quang-sien* not being able to calculate it, or to give any other Ocular demonstration of what was proposed to him, the Emperour declared in favour of the *European* Astronomy.

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Soon

Soon after he ordered several more demonstration to be made, which of these Calculations was the most proper for the Ephemerides and Observations of the Eclipses, and which His Majesty caused to be present, not only the *Mandarins* of the Tribunal of Rites, but also several of the Great Men of his Court, in whom he confided most, and from whom he expected to receive an exact Account of every thing that should be transacted in this Affair. Accordingly all these Observations having been found conformable in all respects to the European Calculations, the Emperour commanded that they should be received and made use of in China, according to the Translation made by Father *Adam Schall* into the Chinese Language, under the late Emperour's Reign, which accordingly was put in execution, and continues thus to this day.

As this Trial of Skill in the Mathematics was the first Occasion that introduced the Father Missionaries into the Emperour's acquaintance; so from that time he always shew'd a great inclination to be instructed in the Mathematical Sciences, which in effect, are in great Esteem among the *Chinese*. It is to be admired, that, being then of Age, which Princes and Great Personages seldom are seen to add to their Study, he did apply himself to it with so much Assiduity, that he made it his Chiefest Delight, sacrificing all his spare Hours to this Study.

Du-

During the space of two Years, Father Ver-
biest instructed him in the Usefulness of the
best of the Mathematical Instruments, and
in what else was most Curious in Geometry,
the Statique, and Astronomy; for which
purpose he wrote several Treatises. It
was also about the same time, that he
took first to our Musick, under the In-
struction of Father Ricci, who not only com-
posed an entire Treatise of Musick, but
also caused several European Instruments
to be made for the Emperours use: upon
some of which, he taught him to play
some Tunes.

The civil Commotions, which happened
not long after, did somewhat interrupt,
but not suppress his first Attempts of this
kind. For, he employed some of his spare
Hours, (notwithstanding his continual Fa-
tigue and Business, the effects of these remar-
kable Revolutions which happened in China)
to the repetition of these things he had
learned before; and the Flames of these
Intestine Broils, being happily extinguish-
ed by his Prudence; and all his Subjects,
both of the Chinese and Tartarian Race,
enjoying the Fruits of Peace and Tran-
quillity, by the Peace concluded about
seven or eight years ago, with the Mus-
covites; it was then that this Prince be-
gan to give fresh demonstrations of his
Desire to be instructed in the European
Sciences.

He did the Honour to us four *Jesuits*, Missionaries then at *Peking*, to receive our Instructions, sometimes in the *Chinese*, sometimes in the *Tartarian* Language; but, as the *Tartarian* is not so difficult as the *Chinese*, the Emperour being inform'd, that Father *Gerbillon* and I, in about eight Months time, had made so much Advancement in it, as to be understood tolerably well; he was pleas'd to make use of us to explain to him the Principles of these Sciences, in the *Tartarian* Language. The better to accomplish our selves, he assigned us certain Masters for a Month together, who taught us every day in the Tribunal of the Great Masters of the Pallace.

Much about the same time, Father *Anthony Thomas*, did give him further Instructions concerning the Use of the best Mathematical Instruments, in the *Chinese* Language, and the practical Part of Geometry and Arithmetick, the principles of which he had formerly been taught by Father *Verbiest*. He would also have us explain him the Elements of *Euclid* in the *Tartarian* Language, being desirous to be well instructed in them, as looking upon them to be the Foundation, upon which to build the rest.

That every thing might be done with as much Ease and Conveniency as could be wish'd for, he assigned us a certain large Appartment in the Pallace belonging to the late Emperour, his Father's Lodgings; where,

where, he himself used frequently to dine, and pass many Hours in the Day, before we were well in possession of it. Here we were furnished plentifully with every thing we stood in need of, and that in a most obliging manner in the World. For every Morning early, we were attended, and carried to the Pallace, by his own Servants and Horses, and were in the same manner conducted back to our Lodgings every Night. Two Mandarin of his Household, well vers'd in both Languages, were appointed on purpose to Assist us in our Works, and as many Scribes as we pleased, to write every thing fair. There scarce pass'd a day, but we were call'd in to the Emperour, who heard our Lessons with a great deal of Attention, and oftentimes he would bestow whole Hours together in our Company, to hear and repeat our Explications, to make the Figures himself, and ask many Questions concerning what remain'd as yet doubtful; and when we had given our Resolutions, both by way, and Mouth, and in Writing, he would bestow much of his leisure Time, to make his Repetitions in private.

He did not neglect at the same time to exercise himself frequently in the Calculations and Use of Mathematical Instruments, and in the re-iterated Repetitions of the chiefest Propositions of *Euclid*, the better to imprint into his Mind their Demonstration; and by this extraordinary Appli-

cation, he made the Elements of *Euclid* familiar to himself in five or six Months, that it was impossible to shew him any Mathematical Draught or Figure, having relation to any of the Propositions of *Euclid*, but that he immediately remembered both the Proposition and its Demonstration, having as he was pleased, to tell himself, I read them over at least twelve times one after another. We did Translate all the most necessary Propositions of *Euclid*, and their Demonstrations into the *Tartarian* Language, for his use, as well as the choicest of *Archimede's* Propositions. And with the same Readiness he would remember the Practick and use of the Compass of Proportion, of the best Mathematical Instruments of Geometry and Arithmetick.

Such was his eager Desire to attain to the perfect Knowledge of these Things, that nothing was able to prevent or hinder his Resolution; neither the various Instances that occur in this Study, nor our want of Skill in the Language. For, if he with any demonstration which he did not well apprehend at first, either because it was more intricate than the rest, or because we wanted proper words to explain our selves clearly in a foreign Language, he would readily ask sometimes one, sometimes another of us, and that at three or four several times, which way the same was to be understood; and if it happened sometimes that we had not the good for-

tune to give him a clear Idea of the matter at that time, he would not grudge to defer the further Explication of it, to another time. ^{As a convincing Instance} of his most Admirable Patience and Attention. He was pleas'd to tell us one time upon this account, speaking of his own Person, that he never thought he could have too much patience in reference of these Matters, which absolutely require it; and, that from his very Infancy, he had always applied himself to whatever he undertook, with a great deal of Attention and Constancy.

After he was sufficiently instructed in the Elements of Geometry, he order'd us to compile a whole System of both the Theorick and Practick of Geometry, in the Tartarian Language, which we afterwards explain'd to him in the same manner as we had done with the Elements of Euclid. At the same time, Father Thomas made a Collection of all the Calculations of Geometry and Arithmeticks, (in the Chinese Language) containing most of the Curious Problems extant both in the European and Chinese Books, that treat of this matter.

He was so much delighted in the pursuit of these Sciences, that besides betwixt two and three Hours, which were set aside every day for purpose to be spent in our Company, he bestow'd most of his leisure time, both in the day and at night in his Studies. 'Tis to be observ'd, That this

Prince, as he is a declared Enemy of a Lazy and Idle Life; so he never go's to Bed but very late, and rises early; from whence it came, that, tho' we were always very careful in being at Court early in the Morning, it happened frequently, that before we could get out of doors, he had already sent for us, either to Revise some of his Calculations, or perhaps a new Problem; For it is almost incredible, with what Assiduity he applies himself to investigate some new Problems, which have some reference to those that have been explain'd to him before; and how he did make it his chief Divertisement, to put in practise whatever he had learn'd of most Curious in Geometry, and to perfect himself in the Management of the most useful Mathematical Instruments.

For which purpose, besides those that were formerly presented to his Father (which were carefully preserved by his Orders) he caused many more to be made, the management of all which he could learn to understand, even to the Nicest Point. These were committed to the Care of Father *Peyrera*, and Father *Suarez*, who being two Persons, that spared no pains in Encouraging the Emperour's Zeal, did manage the whole to the entire Satisfaction of His Majesty.

We on our side, were likewise not negligent in obliging the Emperour with what Mathematical Instruments we had in our Custody, proper for his Use, among which

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was a very fine and large Demycircle, fitted for Geometrical Operations, being a present of the Duke de Maine. This he did not only make frequent use of in the Gardens of his Pallace, but likewise in his Progresses, when it was always carried upon the Back of one of the *Mandarins* of his Household, who notwithstanding its Weight, was not a little proud of the Honour in being intrusted with this precious Burthen. By the help of this Instrument, he would frequently measure sometimes the height of a neighbouring Mountain, sometimes the distance of some remarkable place or other, and that in the presence of his whole Court, who were surprized to see that their Emperor managed this Instrument, and performed the Operations with the same dexterity and good success, as Father *Gerbillon* a Jesuite, who always used to attend His Majesty in his Progresses.

Immediately after our first arrival at *Peking*, we presented him with two excellent Machines, in which one might observe the Eclipses of the Sun and Moon, with the different Aspects of the Planets, for every day in the Year, and for many Ages together. We stand indebted for the Invention of these two most Curious Machines, to those of the *Academy Royal*. The Emperor having commanded us to shew him the perfect Use of them, and how to apply them to the *Chinese* Calendar, ordered these two Machines to be placed

placed on each side of his Throne, in one of the Principal Appartments of his Palace, where I saw them standing but the day before my departure out of Peking; a most convincing Proof of the great Esteem the Emperour has for these as well as all other curious and useful Mathematical Instruments. Ever since that time, he has shewn a most particular Inclination and Esteem both for the French Mathematical Instruments, and other Works and Curious Contrivances; those we had the Honour to offer to His Majesty, having had the good Fortune to meet with his Approbation above all the rest.

It was no wonder if the Esteem the Emperour had for the European Mathematical Instruments, soon influenced most of the Great Men at Court to tread in his footsteps; and if those who honour us with their good Will and Favours, do often engage us, to let some be brought over for them; being sensible that they cannot make their Court with better hopes of Success, than by making a Present of some Curious Mathematical Invention or other, to the Emperour, who not only receives very favourably, all what is offered him in this kind, but shews so much Eagerness for his being furnished with them from all Parts, that he has caused all the Mathematical Instruments, that were in the hands of the Governours of the Maritime Provinces, to be brought to Peking.

To encourage this Noble Desire, we sent to our Brethren the Fathers, *Fernandez de Cente* and *Visselau*, to desire them to furnish us with such Instruments as we judged most proper for the Emperor's use. These Fathers sent us several of the most Curious Mathematical Instruments, some *Phosphorus*'s, both solid and liquid, and other such like Rarities, which we having made a Present of to the Emperor, he received them with all the Marks of Joy, and a most particular Esteem. But these Fathers, being afterwards invited by the Emperor to his Court, they and their Brethren met equally with the most obliging Reception in the World. Among several other Mathematical Instruments, they presented to His Majesty, there were several Levels with two *Periscopes*, to distinguish the Seconds, for Celestial Observations, which by reason of their great Exactness and Accuracy, being highly extoll'd by the Emperor, he assign'd them convenient Places in his own Bed-chamber; And the Prince, who is declared Successour of the Empire, and shews no less Inclination for these Curiosities than his Royal Father, being extremely taken with them, and discovering his Intention to us, I went straight ways to our House, and presented him with the same of the same kind, I had left, which he accepted of in a most extraordinary obliging manner.

After

After we had compleated our Explications both of the Practical and Speculative Geometry, in the same Method as we had made use of before, when we instructed the Emperor in the Elements of the *Euclid*, He shew'd so much Satisfaction in having attain'd to this Noble Science, that, to give the World some manifest Proofs of his Esteem for those Works we had compos'd he order'd them to be Translated out of the *Tartarian* into the *Chinese* Language. He himself took the pains to preface a Preface to each of them, and to have them Revised and printed in his own Palace, and to have them published throughout the whole Empire in both Languages, as a most evident Sign of his laudable intention, to introduce the *European* Sciences into *China*, and to render them familiar to all his Subjects; and having observed in his third Son, (who is a young Prince at about seventeen years of Age, and endowed with many Noble Qualifications) a more than ordinary Genius for these Sciences, he taught him the Principles of Geometry in person. I do not question but there are not a few, who will look upon this so Extraordinary Inclinations and Assiduity towards these Sciences (which, without all Contradiction, are not sufficiently to be prais'd in a private person) as rather blameable than commendable in so Great a Prince, who bears the Weight of so vast an Empire as that of *China*, upon his Shoulders; But, if we will take the pains

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to make due Reflections upon the due Character and present State of the *Chinese* Empire and Nation, who at all times have made Learning the Foundation-stone of their Government, and the knowledge of Sciences the Steps by which to ascend to the highest Dignities and Employments, we shall be forced to confess, That the Emperour's Extraordinary passion for, and delight in these Sciences, ought to be considered as the Effects of a most refined piece of Policy of *France*, who has an absolute insight into the true Nature of the Art of Government.

It is undeniable, that of late years, if you except Moral Philosophy, which is the principal Study that meets with Encouragement among the Modern *Chinese*, This Nation has neglected most of these Sciences, which rendered their Ancestors Famous to Posterity, and were questionless the Chief Cause of the flourishing Condition of their Empire. The present Emperour being inspired with a most glorious Ambition to restore the ancient Glory of this Empire, he judged nothing could be more conducing to attain this Great End, than if he could receive these most useful Arts and Sciences, which were once the Glory of this Nation, and by his own Example, encourage his Subjects to follow his footsteps.

The Emperour being thus instructed in all the parts of Geometry, apply'd his Thoughts to the Study of Philosophy:

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For which Reason, he commanded us to Compile a Body of Philosophy in the *Tartarian* Language, and to follow the same Method we had observed in our Mathematical Treatises, which appear'd to him the most easy and natural. The Success, wherewith it had pleased God to bless our Endeavours, encouraged our Wishes and Hopes of the same, if not better Success in this; and, as we were fully perswaded, that this might prove one of the most proper Means, and be consequently of the utmost Consequence to dispose the Hearts of the *Chinese*, especially those who have any relish of Learning, towards the receiving of the Gospel; we were not sparing in any thing which we thought might contribute towards the introducing a good Philosophy among them.

For this purpose we consulted most of the Ancient and Modern Philosophies; but among all of them, found none more suitable for our Purpose, than the Ancient and Modern Philosophies of Mr. *Descartes*, a Member of the *Royal Academy*, by reason of the Solidity, Purity, and good Connexion of the Doctrine contained in this Treatise; which, therefore we made our Guide to bring our Work to the desired Effect.

But the Emperor being about the same time attack'd by a most dangerous Distemper, it was the Advice of his whole Court, and especially of his Physicians, upon

upon his Recovery, to desist for some time from his Studies, as being prejudicial to the re-establishment of his Health. This Prince, being for the above-mentioned Reason obliged to be more remiss in his applications to these Sciences, we only shew'd him a short Logic, which we intended as an Introduction to our Philosophical Work, of which we had given a Scheme in a large Preface. It was upon this score, that, in lieu of pursuing the same Method and Purpose we intended before, we saw our selves under an indispensable Obligation to conform our selves to the present Disposition and particular Inclinations of the Emperour; which, as we had observed, being of late, for the most part, bent upon the knowledge of the Structure of the Human Body, upon its various Operations and most surprising Motions, we, contrary to our former Design, applied our selves to Treat of this, with the utmost Care and Application.

But because the *Chinese*, for all their great Reputation of having for many years past, had the ablest Physicians, have at present but a very confused Knowledge in Anatomy, we were forced to extend this Treatise to a much larger Bulk, than we at first intended, and to give a true Idea, first of all the Parts of the Human Body in general, and to treat of each afterwards in particular; and to represent the several Relations and Connexions betwixt them, to give them a right Idea of the

the whole *Oeconomia Animalis*. We did not neglect to insert in this Treatise all the most Curious and useful Discoveries of our Modern Anatomists, especially those of Mr. *Du Vernoy*, and of some other Learned Members of the *Royal Academy*, who have distinguished themselves before others in this, as well as in all other kind of Learning.

We shew'd the Emperour twelve or fourteen of these Propositions, with their proper Figures and Explications, just as he was return'd out from one of his Progresses, he frequently makes into *Tartary*; he was so extremely pleas'd with them, that, to shew how much he was delighted with them, he order'd his Chief Painter, who is a Great Master of his Art, to lay aside all other Things, and to make it his whole Business to draw these Figures with all the Exactness he could.

Nevertheless, as this Work requir'd more Application and Assiduity, than was consistent with the Emperour's Health, so our Labour was interrupted for some time by the Emperour's Command, whose Curiosity, inclining rather at that time to the investigating the Causes of some of the most noted Distempers, wherewith he had either been formerly, or was still afflicted; he order'd us to endeavour to inform him concerning the Causes of these Distempers, according to the Principles of our Modern *European Physicians*.

God Almighty, who by his Providence had given us this favourable Opportunity, to touch more effectually the Heart of this Great Prince in favour of the Christian Religion and its Ministers, did also assist us in making a Considerable Progress in this Matter. For in two or three Months time, we writ 18 on 10 small Treatises, each Treating of a certain Distemper in particular, pursuant to the Method prescribed to us by the Emperour. They met with the good Fortune of being not only Approv'd, but also very pleasing to the Emperour, who extoll'd them in Publick, and sent for us into his Presence, to be Witnesses our selves of the Satisfaction he shew'd upon this Occasion. To give us an ample proof of his Acknowledgement, he pitch'd upon the most proper Reward, that could be bestow'd upon Ministers of the Gospel, and at our most Earnest Request, he, by his publick Edict granted the free Exercise of our Religion, and consequently freed its Professors from those dangers that had threatned them for many years last past.

In some of the first of these Treatises we had, upon the occasion of speaking of the internal Chymical Remedies, enlarg'd our selves upon their Excellencies, in respect of this Particular, that besides their Qualities of Curing or giving Ease in many Distempers, they had this peculiar Prerogative before other Medicines, that they were not so nauseous, and taken

in less quantity. The Emperour having conceived a particular Curiosity to see some Effects of it, was very desirous to see some Experiments made of this kind. We did all what in us lay to decline this province, in representing to him, that we having no experience in Matters of this Nature, durst not attempt a thing of such Moment. But this Prince, who by some small things of this Nature, he had seen us do before, judged that we might undertake this, also with the same hopes of Success, would not admit of our excuses.

To work therefore we went, taking for our Guide the Dispensatory of the Sieur Charas, Director of the *Royal Laboratory*; The Emperour assign'd us a large Room within the Pallace, where we set up a Laboratory. Here you might have seen several Sorts of Furnaces, with most Instruments and Utensils requisite for Chymical Operations; which pursuant to the Emperour's Orders, who is never sparing upon such like Occasions, were all of Silver. We were busie in preparing several Sorts of Conserve, Lymphs and Essences, for three Months together, and the Emperour would sometimes honour us with his Presence, and took such particular Satisfaction in those Preparations, that he ordered them to be preserv'd for his own Use.

More than this, he caus'd many Golden and Silver Vessels to be made, in which he carried these Medicines in his Progresses, which

which he took a peculiar Pains in, and would give them upon occasion to his Children, the Great Men of his Court, and others of his Attendance. It must truly be confess'd of this Prince, that his Natural Inclinations are very Charitable; for no sooner does he hear of any of his Servants being ill, but he sends his Physicians to them, and liberally furnishes them with what is most precious among his Medicines. Of this we have had several times experience our selves; as often as any of us happened to be afflicted with any Distemper.

We had the good Fortune to see many Sick people, and among them, several of the Emperour's Household, to be relieved by these Medicines we had brought along with us out of Europe. The Emperour falling sick some time after; and having for some time made use of the Chinese Remedies, but with little Success, had recourse to ours, which produced the desired effect. His Physicians, jealous of their Reputation, did all what in them lay to restore him to his Health, but to little purpose, all proving ineffectual, except the *Quinquina*, of which the two Fathers, *De Fontenay* and *Kiffelon*, who arrived very fortunately at that time, had brought a good Quantity along with them. Heaven, which upon this as well as several other Occasions, was pleased to give us a particular Mark of its Mercy; being willing to make use of our Assistance as a

Recompense to this Prince, for the Liberty granted to the Professors of the Christian Religion in the preceding Year; and as a further Engagement to extend his Bounty more and more towards the Preachers of the Gospel, to whom he stood indebted for the preservation of his Life, as he himself was pleased publicly to declare in the presence of most of the Grantees of his Court.

There are very few who have tarried for any considerable time at Peking, but what know with how much Esteem and Affection Father, *Verbiest* was received by this Emperour; but it is also undeniable, that he never gave him such particular proofs of his Esteem, as he did to us for several years past, whilst we had the Honour of being instrumental in promoting his Studies in the Mathematicks.

Those who are acquainted with the Chinese Court, where every thing is carried on with a singular Grandeur, are not ignorant how rare a thing it is to see their Emperours enter into a familiar Conversation with their Subjects; and how difficult a thing it is, even for the Greatest Men in the Empire, and the Princes of the Royal Blood to approach his person, unless it be upon the Occasion of some publick Festival, will perhaps be scarce able to believe, that we had so free an Admittance, especially considering that we were Religious persons, and Foreigners.

The whole Court have been eye-witnesses (to their great Surprize) of the private Audiences and Conferences we had duly every day, no body being admitted to be present, but three or four Eunuchs of the Emperour's Bed-chamber; where the Chief Subject of our Discourse was concerning all manner of Sciences, the Manners and Customs, and what else was worth our Observation in the *European*, and some other States of the World. As there was not any Subject, where-with we used to entertain this Prince with more particular Satisfaction, than the Glorious Actions of *Lewis the Great*, so I can testify it my self, That there was not any thing of this Nature, in which he took more delight to be inform'd in. At last, he gave us such ample Marks of his great Esteem, that he would absolutely command us to sit down near his side; an Honour never granted before to any Body living, unless to his own Children.

But if he is lavishing in his Bounty towards us in private, he is not sparing of it in publick, having given sufficient proofs to the World, of a particular Affection and Esteem. Every body knows in what manner Father *Verbiest* was honoured by him, both in his Life-time and after his Death. Very few are unacquainted in what Splendid manner Father *Thomas* was invited and received in *China*; and how the first five *French Jesuits Missionaries*, were received with no less Honour at his

Court. The *Muscovites* have been eye-witnesses of Honours conferr'd upon the Fathers, *Perrera* and *Gerbillon*, at the Treaty of Peace betwixt their Plenipotentiaries and those of *China*, about eight Years ago. It was the Entertainment of the whole Court of *Peking* at that time, when Father *Grimaldi* was sent by the present Emperour as his Envoy into *Muscovy*. I will leave it to others to testify, how honourable I was Treated by his Special Orders, by all the Governours of the Provinces, and others, and that frequently in the presence of the Missionaries of several other Nations, and of the *English* and *Portuguese* Merchants; especially, at that time when I received his special Instructions to go into *France*, and how it acquird me so extraordinary a Reputation throughout all the Eastern parts, (even among the Enemies of our Nation) as is scarce to be credited.

We indeed, as well as all the other *Jesuits*, which formerly were entrusted with any publick Employments by the Emperour of *China*, made it our constant Business to insinuate, both to the Prince and his Grandees, that we were not desirous of these Honours, which were not very agreeable to the Humility taught by the Gospel; but inspite of all our Excuses, it was the Emperour's Pleasure to heap upon us from time to time these publick Marks of his Favour, looking upon them as the most proper Means to promote our

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Interest, both among the Great Men and common People; and to give the more Authority and Weight to the Profession and Doctrine of the Christian Religion.

The same Curiosity which had led the Emperour towards the Improvement of our Sciences, did also induce him to be inform'd concerning the Chief Points of our Religion. The first knowledge of them he drew from divers Consultations he had with Father *Verbiest*, under pretext of Confering with him about some of the most Valuable Sciences of *Europe*. He has also read several Treatises upon this Subject, which were presented to him by some of the Fathers Missionaries. That which he delighted in most was an excellent Piece of the Famous Jesuit, Father *Ricci*, which he kept by him above six Months. You may believe we did not let slip any Opportunity that offered, to speak to him concerning the true Principles of Christianity. He permits to the Jesuits Missionaries the free exercise of our Religion within the precinct of his own Palace; and he has been often heard to say, that, to judge of the Christian Religion according to its Principles and Progress it had made in *China*, he did not question, but that it would become the Established Religion there.

He has laid aside already many of the most antient Superstitions of the *Chinese*. As for instance, there is scarce any body in *China*, (unless he be a Christian) but

what, if he is to undertake any thing of Moment, chuses a certain Day and Hour, to begin it in. There is a special Apartment belonging to the Tribunal of the Mathematicks, where their whole Business is to chuse by many Superstitious ways, Places, Days, and Hours, for any thing of Moment that is to be taken in hand. It is no longer than in the Minority of this present Emperor, that three *Abundants* of the Mathematical Tribunal, were condemned by the Regents of the Empire, to lose their Heads, for no other Reason, than having been not careful enough in Observing the exact Hour, when the Emperours Brother's Funeral was to have been begun; they looking upon this Neglect as ominous, if not Fatal to the whole Imperial Family. 'Tis true, the Emperor has hitherto out of a Principle of Policy, not abolished this Tribunal, but he has more than once told us himself, that he makes not the least Reflection upon their Observations; and it is certain, that in all Matters relating to his own Person, he takes his Resolutions beforehand, which he afterwards sends to the Tribunal. Thus for instance; when he was going to Marry his eldest Son, the Mathematical Tribunal, unto whom it belongs (according to a most ancient Custom among the *Chinse*) to determine which of the several Persons proposed ought to be preferred before the rest, received his Instructions

ctions to chuse the same Person the Emperour had pitch'd upon before, which was done accordingly. The same Method he makes use of when he intends to take a Progress: when he always sends his Orders to this Tribunal, what day he intends to set out, and their Resolutions are always agreeable to his preferred Time.

It is next to a Miracle to see a Prince so Potent, so Absolute, whose Commands are a Law, and executed without delay, surrounded with such a number of Courtiers, addicted to their Pleasures and all manner of Luxury, so moderate in his person, and so great a Master of his passions, as this Monarch. He is naturally of a Colerick Disposition, notwithstanding which, it has been observed upon many Occasions, both in respect of publick or private Affairs, that he so absolutely controuls his Anger, as scarce ever to punish an ill Action immediately, but generally delays it to another time, sometimes for Weeks and Months; looking upon this as the most proper means to make punishment bear a due proportion to the Fault committed, and consequently to maintain a good Order in the State.

Of this we observed a most memorable Instance about six years ago. The Emperour happening to fall dangerously ill in one of his progresses, which he made in the Mountainous parts of *Tartary* to Hunt, according to his Custom, he sent Post for his Son, who was declared his

his Successour. Some of the young Prince's Domesticks, having conceiv'd some hope of seeing their young Master surmount upon the Throne, had not only shew'd their Satisfaction in their Countenance, but also had let slip some Words, which having reach'd the Emperour's Ears, immediately after his full Recovery, he was extremely vex'd at their Indiscretion. But considering that at this Juncture of time, it would turn to the no small prejudice of his Health, if he should give vent to his Anger; he master'd his passion and delay'd their punishment to a more seasonable Time. After he had pretty well recovered his former Strength, he ask'd his Physicians, whether without any Danger to his Health, he might discharge little Choler, which had oppress'd him for some time. And his Physicians having given their Consent, he order'd them to be soundly Bastonaded, beginning with the Foster-Father of the Prince, who was then his Governour; and some of the Chief Eunuchs of his Chamber. he banish'd to the utmost Confines of Tartary. But if ought to be observed here, that a good Bastonade or Whipping, is an extraordinary Punishment in China, and some other Eastern Parts, which do not leave behind them any Stain of Infamy, as it is with us in Europe; nothing being more frequently to be seen, than that the Emperour's Servants, after they have been thus Chastised, are put in their former

mer Stations again, and are admitted again even into the Emperour's presence, who looks upon them never the worse for this Reason, if they make amends for their past Misdemeanour by their future Good behaviour.

The present Emperour of China is no less Master of his other, than of this Passion, and especially of that which is so predominant in most Courts of the Asiatick Princes, and which at all times have been so far from being considered in China as a Vice; that it has rather been authorized by Custom. Within the Pallace are entertained great Numbers of young Maids, chosen out of the Fairest of the whole Empire, to be at the Disposal of their Prince; And it is an ancient Custom among the *Tartars*, not to marry any of their Daughters, but what has been first presented to the Emperour, who, without any further formality, may retain which he pleases of them, for his own use; which is, besides this, look'd upon by their Kindred as a singular Honour done to their Family.

It is to these most dangerous Customs, which have proved the ruine of so many Emperours; the *Chinese* may chiefly attribute these many Revolutions, which have happened in their Empire, their Princes being thereby enticed to abandon themselves altogether to Voluptuousness, and whilst they pass'd the greatest part of their time among their Concubines, leave the whole

whole Management of publick Affairs to their *Eunuchs* and other Favourites.

But the Emperour, who at this time sits upon the *Chinese* Throne, is so far from indulging himself in these Pleasures, that on the contrary, he avoids even the least Opportunities, and takes all the Precautions he can to render himself proof against all these Temptations.

About some years ago in one of his Progresses into the Province of *Nanking*, they presented him, according to Custom, with seven of the Handsomest Maids of the whole Province; but he was so far from accepting of them, that he would not so much as look upon them. Some of his Courtiers, who had free access to his Person, having abused this Liberty, by endeavouring to entice him to Voluptuousness, they were never after look'd upon with a good eye by this Prince, who found several ways to chastise them afterwards for their Misbehaviour, to make them sensible how little Satisfaction he took, and how much he stood upon his Guard against these Allurements, which serve only to debale a Generous Soul.

To remove all Opportunities of being drawn into the Snare of those pernicious Pleasures, he employs his Time in the most Noble exercises both of his Mind and Spirit, such as Travelling, Hunting, Fishing, Horse-Races, Exercises of Arms, Reading of Books, and the Study of useful Sciences. It is for this Reason he de-

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lights so much in taking long Journeys, where the Women never follow the Courts and, besides that, he allots himself every Year, at least three Months for Hunting amongst the Mountainous parts of *Tartary*, where, even Necessity it self, oblige the whole Court to abate much of these Pleasures they are wont to enjoy in *China*; he frequently takes a Progress of 15 or 20 days, to the Imperial Tombs of his Family, where he spends most of his time in Hunting.

When he is at *Peking*, or at one of his two Country Seats near that City, he often spends the greatest part of the Day in Hunting. For this purpose, he has a very fine Park, about a Leagues distance from *Peking*, of a quadrangular Figure, surrounded with a very high Wall, containing about sixteen Leagues in Circumference, where great numbers of wild Beasts and Fowl are entertained for his constant Diversion. And as he takes particular Delight in Hunting the Tyger, so he constantly takes care to have some young ones bred up in a small Park behind his Pallace, which serve him for his Diversion when they are grown up.

For the same reason it is the Emperour, delights extremely in Fishing, and is well versed in every thing belonging to it. Sometimes you shall see him Fishing in the River of *Peking*, sometimes in the Ponds belonging to the Gardens of his Pallace, and his Country Seats, sometimes

times he casts a Net, at other times Fishes with the Angle; We have often times receiv'd the honour of being presented with some of the Fish he catches with his own hands; which is look'd on among the *Chineses*, as a most particular mark of the Emperour's Favour.

As for the Horse-Races, tho' they are not so frequently practis'd, yet once twice a year he keeps Publick Horse-Races for his whole Court. Every one of the Princes and Grandees do here produce their finest and swiftest Runners in their Stables. The Emperour likewise purs in his own Horses, and sets a considerable Prize, to be carried by the Horse that first comes to the end of the Race. The *Tartars* in general are great Admirers of the Races, and Ride sometimes Races of six or seven Leagues long, without taking breath, and with so much eagerness, that often Horse and Man drops by the way notwithstanding which, they do not want others, who readily supply their places.

The Horses commonly used among the *Tartars*, no more than those of the *Chineses*, don't come near our European Horses of any Value, either for Shape, or Generosity and Spirit. But they have this Advantage before most of our Horses, that they are kept with much less Trouble and Charges; and yet will endure more Fatigues and run both longer and swifter.

We have told you before that this Prince is very adroit in managing the Bow and Fire-lock, as well as in other Bodily Exercises; and what wonder is it, if he takes particular delight, to instruct his Sons in the same exercises, of which he is so great a Master himself.

He is no less careful in keeping his Troops in continual exercise; Four Months in the year are appointed on purpose for the exercising the Souldiers in all sorts of Military Actions; so wit, two Months in the Spring, and two in Autumn; but especially those quartered in and about the City of Peking, of which one fifth part is drawn out into Field, to do their exercises every day. Sometimes the Emperour takes a review of them altogether, sometimes some part of them in Person, where Prizes are allotted those who manage their Arms with most dexterity. When they Shoot at the Mark, every Foot, or Horse Souldier, who Shoots with his Arrow, within the Circle receives a Reward of three Shillings and Six-pence.

If but a private Centinal's place be vacant in the Emperour's Troops, there are many ready to offer their Service; whereas in Europe, our Officers cannot compleat sometimes their Companies, but with a great deal of Trouble; the Emperour lays his strict Commands upon his Officers, always to pick out those they find most Accomplished in managing their Arms, and other Military exercises, there being none to be

be admitted without having undergone the Toil of it. But, when any place either of a Common Soldier, or *Mandarin* of his Guards, happens to be vacant, the Emperour takes effectual Care himself that his Orders as to this point, may be put in execution with the greatest exactness imaginable. For, so often as a vacant place is to be supplied among the Troops of the Household, those who desire to be admitted into it, are brought to His Majesty's presence, who examines them concerning such Matters as belong to their several Stations, and always gives preference to those, whom he finds best Qualified.

The present Emperour never neglects anything which he judges may in the least contribute to the Preservation and Security of the State. He was no sooner informed in what belong to the Casting of Cannons, as used in *Europe*, but he caused a great Quantity to be cast in Imitation of them; and many of his Subjects to be instructed in the Management of the Ordnance Artillery, as well for Cannoneering and Bombarding of places. He ordered a prodigious Quantity of Brass Field-pieces to be made, which are portable upon a Horse or Mule; another Horse being allotted to each, for the Carriage and Ammunition belonging to it, all of his own Invention.

In a late Battle fought betwixt his Troops and those of the *Tartarian* King of *Eluth*, it had been observed, that the Enemy by their Fire-Arms, had done the greatest mischief to his Forces; that their continual Firing upon his Horse, had forced them back out of their Lines, and consequently had prevented them from putting the Enemies Army to an entire Rout; ever since, the Emperour has taken care to have part of his Troops, but especially those of his Household, to be instructed as well in the Management of the Fire-lock, as of the Bow.

What leisure time this Prince has, is altogether employed, either in the Improvement of his Mind, or useful exercise of his Body. For besides what is spent in Reading of the *Chinese* Books, and *European* Treatises concerning many Arts and Sciences, after he has been fully instructed in the use of the Mathematical Instruments, nothing is more frequent, for some years last past, than to see him either at *Peking*, or at his Country Seats, nay even in his Progresses into *Tartary*, to take the greatest Pleasure in the World to make some Astronomical or Geometrical Observations, by the help of those Mathematical Instruments, which are carried after him, wherever he goes. Sometimes you would see him to take the height of the Sun at Noon; sometimes the Hour and Minute with an Astronomical Ring, to investigate the elevation of the Pole.

At other times, you might find him measuring the height of some Tower or Mountain, or the Distance of some remarkable Places. Oftentimes he would employ himself in Calculating the length of the Shadow of a Stick at Noon of a certain day. As the Observations made by the Emperour, and those of Father *Gerbillon*, who commonly attended him in his Progresses, and made his Observations at the same time with the Emperour, did generally agree very exactly with one another; so the whole Court was over-joyed at it, and there was scarce any Prince, or Person of Quality, who were not desirous to have at least their Children instructed in those Sciences, which they so much admired; but despair'd of ever being able to attain to the Knowledge of them themselves.

After Father *Foménax* and Father *Visselon* came to Peking, the Emperour had the Curiosity to be instructed by them concerning the use of the *Pendulum*, fitted for Coelestial Observations, and of the *Level*, and some other Instruments, which these Fathers presented to the Emperour, immediately after their arrival. They were not sparing in their Labour, and after they had explain'd to him many Curious Propositions concerning several points of Astronomy; they having likewise mentioned to him two new Methods to find out the Eccipses, of the Invention of Mr. *Cassini*, and Mr. *De-la-hire*; he

was so extreemly taken with them, that he would needs be informed concerning these Methods, for which reason he ordered these Fathers to draw up the necessary Figures for their Explication.

To give the most ample demonstration to the World that could be, how much he delighted in all these noble Exercises, he resolved to re-establish the most useful Arts and Sciences in his Empire. That which chiefly made him take this Resolution, was his frequent Conversation with the *European* Authors, and especially those of *France*, who have treated of these Matters; Add to this, that we never let slip the least opportunity that offered, for to enlarge our selves in our Discourses upon the Subject of those several Famous Academies, erected under his present Majesty's Reign in *Paris*, for the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences; and to what a degree of perfection, the same were brought, under the protection of *Louis the Great*, who by his Royal Munificence had drawn thither the most Eloquent Masters of all kinds.

It was in Imitation of that same Model, we had given him of this Academy, the present Emperour of *China* laid the Foundation of an Academy of Painters, of Engravers, Carvers, and other Artists in Brass and Copper, for Clock-Works and Mathematical Instruments; assigning them certain Apartments about five Years ago within the precinct of his own Palace,

give

give them all due Encouragement, and to create among them a kind of Emulation, he used to set them for Patterns those pieces which were made in *Europe*, and especially those made at *Paris*. And as he is an excellent Judge both of the Goodness and Beauty of all Sorts of Curious Workmanship, he has every day, if he is at *Peking*, or every other day, if at one of his Country Houses, at a certain hour brought to him the several pieces of these New Academicians. He takes a view and examines every thing with all Nicety imaginable; finds fault with what is defective, and gives due praise to those that deserve it; and retains for his own use what he finds as most exact and perfect. He also bestows some Publick Marks of his Favour upon all those Artists, whom he finds industrious in improving their Natural Talent, and passionate for to bring their Pieces to the utmost degree of perfection; Some of whom he has elevated to the Dignity of *Mandarins*, and has caused them to be invested with those Ceremonies and Titles which are the ordinary Marks of these Honours; the Emperour was pleased to bestow upon them.

The present Emperour of *China*, as absolute a Master as he is, both of his Subjects and Passions, would not be look'd upon by the *Chineses*, as an accomplish'd Monarch, if besides his many other great Qualifications, he had not also a particular Respect and Tenderness for his Kindred.

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As the principal Duty in reference of those that are next of Kin, consists in that respect which is due from Children to their Parents, and in the tenderness of Parents to their Children; So this Prince has signalized himself in these two points, to the highest degree.

As to what relates to the first of these two Duties, which is considered among the *Chinese*, as one of the most Essential parts of Morality; the present Emperor having been bereaved of both of the Emperor his Father, and the Empress his Mother, in his very Infancy; the old Empress his Grand-mother, which survived them for a considerable time, was always both in her life-time, and after her death, the true Object of his filial Respect; as the Prince was the most perfect Pattern of Dutyfulness, that ever was heard of before, even in *China* it self. She was the only person, that took care of his Education; and it is incredible, with what Submission he could receive her Instructions; how he never failed to attend her continually, and what Inquietudes might be observed in his very Countenance, when at any time he had notice given him, that she was never so little out of Order; upon which occasion, he has sometimes left off Hunting immediately, and Rid three or fourscore Miles Post, to give her a Visit.

But those that have been Eye witnesses of what he did at the time of Her Death, will readily confess that nothing could

pass his Tenderness towards his Grand-Mother. For he caused not only the whole Court, but the whole Empire to go into Mourning, for fifteen days together, that the Dead Body of the Emperess lay in State, there was a general suspension of all publick Affairs; All the Grandees and *Ministers*, even to the most inconsiderable Officers were forced to attend Day and Night in the several Courts of the Palace, where, notwithstanding the Rigour of the Winter Season, they were to bewail the Loss of this Princess.

He himself could not be perswaded to leave the Coffin, and would sometimes tarry in the same Apartment where she lay, whole Nights together without taking rest. He ordered a most magnificent Funeral to be Celebrated, which cost several Millions, to give the most evident proof of his respect to the deceased Princess, he followed the Corps in Person with his whole Court, as far as to the Place of Burial, which was 25 Leagues distant from Peking.

But it is to be observed, that it was near four Months after her Death, before the Celebration of these Funeral Rites; the Emperour having caused the Corps to be deposited in the meanwhile in one of the Royal Palaces without the City, whither he followed it on foot, with all his Children, that were of a fit Age to walk.

During

During these four Months, it laid in State there, the Emperour went constantly three or four times a Week, to pay his Duty to the Deceased, and to Deplore the Loss of this Incomparable Princess. Near the Sepulchre where her Body was Interr'd, he built a very Magnificent Pallace, surrounded with a great many fair Lodgings, for the convenient Entertainment of a Considerable Number of Gentlemen, whose Business it was to do all imaginable Honour to the Memory of this Princess, by their Lamentations, and other Ceremonies used among the *Chineses* upon such like Occasions.

For whole three years after, neither he nor his whole Court took any publick Divertisements; such, as Plays, Musick, Feasting, &c. During which time, he took several Progresses every year to the Sepulchre, (notwithstanding its distance from *Peking*.) where he spent his time in giving all the imaginable Demonstrations of his Respect towards the deceased Princess; and continues it since, after the expiration of these three years allotted for the Mourning.

I have it from very good hands, that even to this day, when he happens to pass by the Appartment where the Empress died, he cannot forbear to shed Tears.

As the present Emperour of *China*, has made himself the Admiration of the *Chineses*, by these unparalleld Examples of Piety and Filial Respect to his Il-

lustrious

lustrious Grand-mother; so the Love he bears to his Children, and the Care he takes without intermission of their Education, have no less gain'd him the Hearts of all his Subjects.

At the beginning of the year 1694, (when I left China) he had fourteen Sons, and an great many Daughters living; by several Wives, who for the most part are Dignified with the Title of Queen, so being sufficiently known, that Polygamy is more encouraged in China, than in any other part of the World, because the Chinese look upon a numerous Posterity, as the greatest Happiness in this World. We had the Honour of being acquainted with ten of the fourteen Sons, who were all very Handsom, and gave us great hopes of their future Greatness, the other four living, being as yet not past their Infancy. Those who have the Tuition of these young Princes, are chosen from among the most Learned Doctors of the Imperial College. Their Governours are persons of the first Rank, and of known Merit, who have been brought up at the Emperours Court from their Infancy. Besides these, the Emperour himself keeps a watchful eye over all the Actions of these Princes, and takes particular Notice of what progress they make in their Studies; sometimes he peruses their Compositions, and makes them explain some Passages in their Books in his presence.

But, above all, he makes it the Chief Care of his Life, to see them instructed in every thing tending to Vertue and the useful Exercises of the Body. No sooner are they able to walk upright, but they are taught to mount on Horseback, to use both the Bow and Fire-Arms; which Exercises are their daily Recreations and Diversions. He will not allow them to be too tenderly used, but on the contrary orders them to be accustomed in their early Years to all sorts of Fatigues, and even the coarsest sort of Meat. I cannot forbear on this Occasion to give you an Account of what I heard Father Gerbillon relate one day upon this Subject, about six years ago, after his return from a long Journey into *Tartary*, whither he had attended the present Emperour in one of his Progresses.

The Emperour had at that time taken along with him only his Eldest Son, and two more, to wit, the Third and the Fourth; but after he had spent some days in Hunting, he sent likewise for four more of his Sons, the eldest of those being but Twelve, and the youngest Nine years of Age. All these young Princes were for a Month together every day on Horseback, a Hunting among the Mountains of *Tartary*, exposed to the Heat of the Sun, with their Bows in Hand, and Quivers at their Backs, which they managed with so much Dexterity, that their pass'd not a day, but each of them kill'd some wild Fowl

Fowl or other; and the first time they went abroad a Hunting, the youngest kill'd two Stags with his Arrow.

They were well vers'd in and spoke both the *Tartarian* and *Chinese* Languages; and had already made such progress in the Study of the *Chinese* Characters, that the youngest was come to the last Book of the *Morals of Confucius* having gone through the three first Parts before. The Emperour will not suffer them to be encouraged in the least Fault they commit, their Education being much more strict than what is commonly practis'd in *Europe*, for which Reason it is, that if those, to whose Tuition they are committed, should pretend to dissemble or hide any of their Faults, they are sure to meet with severe Punishment from the Emperour.

It is an antient Custom among the *Chinese*, to dignifie the Emperour's Children with the Title of King, as soon as they are arriv'd to the Age of Sixteen or Seventeen, at which time they are provided with a Pallace, their own Servants, and a proportionable Revenue to sustain their Grandeur; But, when I left *China*, the present Emperour kept as yet his eldest Son with him in his own Pallace, without any particular Attendance, though he was then near three and twenty years of Age, was Married, and had several Children. The Emperour is extremely fond of him, and to give him his Due, he is a young Prince very Deserving; Handsom, Witty,
and

present Emperour of China.

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and endowed with many other Noble Qualifications.

The Tribunal of Princes, and of Officers of the Crown, did some years ago present a Petition to the Emperour, in favour of this Son, whom they desired to be Dignified with the Title of King. But the Emperour, without answering their Petition, kept him near him as before; and we have seen him duly every day go to that Appartment next adjoyning to the Emperours, which is the School of the Princes, where they pass the greatest part of their Time in their Studies, and other useful exercises. His Majesty comes thither frequently to visit them, and examines them what progress they make.

But above all the rest, the Education of his Second Son, who is declared *Hwang-Tai-Tse*, That is to say, Hereditary Prince, or Succellour in the Empire, he being the First-born by the Empress his first Spouse; the Education, I say, of this Prince, seems to be the Chiefest Care of the present Emperour: There is a particular Tribunal appointed, whose Business it is, to instruct this Prince in every thing that belongs to the Accomplishment of so Great a Monarch, and to the Art of Government; The Emperour his Father, is extremely vigilant in every thing that concerns his Education, and takes an exact Account from time to time of all his Actions, being willing to qualifie him in time

time for the Management of so vast an Empire. And it must be confess'd that this Prince, who now is of about twenty three years of Age, is one of the Handsomest Persons in the whole Court of *Peking*, and that he is preferable to all others in respect of his many Noble Qualities; there being not one among all his Domesticks, but what speak of him with the greatest Reverence that can be, and are fully perswaded, that he will tread in his Father's Footsteps, and be one day one of the most Glorious Monarchs, that ever ascended the *Chinese* Throne.

But, that which obliges us to have a most particular Esteem for this Prince, is, that being by the Emperour his Father always inspired with favourable Sentiments in respect of the Christian Religion, and the Missionaries, we have always observed in his Person an Affection for us, equal to that of the Emperour.

It is about five year pass'd, when the Emperour having shewn him the Observatory of *Peking*, and all the Mathematical Instruments there, he told the Prince, That the Empire of *China* stood indebted to Father *Verbiest*, for these many Curious and Magnificent Engines, making a large recital of the services done by this Father, and the other Missionaries, to the late Emperour his Father.

The same day that I had my Audience of leave from the Emperour, this young Prince made me a Present of one of his
own

own Suits of Cloaths, which is look'd upon as a most particular Favour among the *Chin-
neſes*; and this Present was accompanied with Words, ſo obliging on his ſide, that I have all the reaſon in the World to have a high Eſteem of ſo extraordinary a Perſon. It was, indeed, our opinion, that it was by the Emperor's means, I received this Favour from the Prince, he having ſent twice to me a little before, to know, Whether *Hoang-Tai-Tſe* made me any Preſent.

Not long after, this young Prince made likewise a Preſent of one of his own Suits of Cloaths, to Father *Gerbillon*, with about fifty Piſtols in it, accompanied with this obliging Meſſage; That being ſenſible that the Miſſionaries did not look for any Re-
compence of this Nature, he had ſent him this ſmall Preſent, as a Token of his Affection; and of the Satisfaction he took in the Recovery of the Emperor his Father, who ſtood indebted for it, to the Care of Father *Gerbillon*.

The ſame day that Father *de Fontenay*, and Father *Viſdelon* came to *Peking*, the Emperor being indiſpoſed, and keeping his Bed, could not immediately admit them to his Preſence, as he would certainly have done, if he had been well; But *Hoang-Tai-Tſe*, having received a very advantageous Character of them before, was very deſirous to ſee them, and received them in a moſt obliging manner. This Prince, who is very well verſed in all the Books
and

and Sciences of the *Chineses*; having understood, that Father *Visdelon* had made a considerable progress in these Studies, was very desirous to be convinced of the Truth of it.

For which purpose, having shew'd him divers of the most difficult Passages in some of their Antient Books, which Father *Visdelon* explained with a great deal of exactness, he was over-joyed to see, that this Father was as well versed in the *Chinese* Books, as most of their own Doctors. But his satisfaction encreased more and more, when having asked Father *Visdelon*, concerning the Conformity betwixt the Doctrine of *Confucius*, and the Antient *Chineses*, and the Christian Religion; he received for Answer from this Father, That this Antient Doctrine was so far from being contradictory to the Christian Religion, that there was a great uniformity betwixt both their Principles. This Prince being thereby brought to the knowledge of some of the Fundamental Points of the Christian Religion, seems to be convinced, as well as the Emperour his Father, That the Antient Doctrine of the *Chineses* was founded upon the same Principles with the Christian Religion.

I say, as well as the Emperour his Father; For, it is to be observed, that it is a considerable time ago, this Prince has been convinced of this Truth, of which he has given us very evident and Authentick

tick Proofs upon several occasions: And it was, without question, this Consideration, that prevailed with him, to allow the free Exercise of the Christian Religion throughout his Dominions, in so Publick and solemn a manner, which I am well satisfied, he would never have done, (he being a very Politick Prince) if he had had the least doubt that the Fundamental Maxims of the Christian Religion, which flow from the Law of Nature, and are its perfection, were contradictory to those of the Antient *Chineses*; which if considered in its genuine Purity, and according to the Principles Established by the Antient Sages of *China*, free from those additional Corruptions inserted by their Modern Doctors, is altogether the same with the Law of Nature. The Emperour was fully convinced of this Truth by the reading of that excellent Treatise of Father Ricci which Treats expressly of this Matter; and being in so high an esteem among all the Learned Men of *China*, did, as we mentioned before, at last fall, into the Emperour's hands; which induced him to grant us the free exercise of our Holy Religion, which we would not as much as have hoped for, without the particular Assistance and Mercy of the Almighty.

The Title belonging this Great Prince of being the Chief or Supreme Head of their Religion, and his exquisite Judgment, improved to the highest degree, by the long Study of so many Books, especially
of

of them relating to those Antient *Chinese* Religion, must needs be a great Weight to any unbiass'd Person.

As to what relates to *Hoang-Tai-Tse*, I have it from unquestionable hands, That since my departure from *Peking*, he treads altogether in his Father's Footsteps, and gives our Missionaries frequent Proofs of his Esteem and Affection both for their Religion and Persons. Just as I was ready to Embarque in the Port of *Canton*, in order to my return into *France*, I received a Letter from Father *Gerbillon*, in which he assured me, That in one of the late Progresses of the Emperour into *Tartary*, in which he attended, as he was always used to do, the young Prince had heaped upon him all the Marks of a particular Esteem and Affection, that could be imagined. That so, being desirous to see some Tables for Calculations, composed by Father *de Fontenay* and Father *Vissdelon*, for the Emperour, he had instructed him in the use of them; The Emperour had been so much taken with the usefulness of them, that he had been the first who had shewn them to *Hoang-Tai-Tse*, who ever since carried them in a Case, fastened to his Girdle. That one day, this young Prince asked him concerning the God of Heaven; upon which occasion, Father *Gerbillon*, having made a short Harangue upon this Subject in his presence, he heard him with a great deal of Satisfaction and Attention; and at another time

time engaged him to explain him half a page out of the Holy Scripture.

The Brothers of this Prince, but especially the eldest, who besides many other rare Qualities, has a most impetuous Natural Genius, treat us at all times very favourably, as well as the two young Brothers of the Emperor, who in this point exceed all the other Princes of the Blood.

This favourable Disposition of the Imperial Family, and most of the other Princes towards the Christian Religion, and those who publish it in the Capital City of Peking, has communicated itself to most of the Persons of the first Rank; and the Example of their Sovereign has made so deep an Impression upon the rest, even to the *Ministers* and other Officers of the Court, that there are few who have not very favourable Sentiments of us.

But what is the most surprising, and which has been look'd upon almost like a Prodigy to all the World, is, that the two Chief Ministers of State, have given us such publick and extraordinary Demonstrations of the Affection and Esteem they bare towards the Gospel. I mean the Lord *Go-fan*, and the Lord *Ming*. The first of these two is the same illustrious Person, who for a considerable time has been the Chief Supporter of the Christian Religion and the Missionaries in China, and who signalized his Zeal of late in making use of all his Interest and Rhetoric

rick to persuade, first the Emperour, and afterwards, the Sovereign Court of Rites (the same I should say, which for this Age last past, has appear'd so dreadful to the Preachers of the Gospel) to approve and conform themselves to the Emperour's Resolution of granting to us, in most solemn and Authentick manner, the free exercise of the Christian Religion.

What relates to the second, to wit, the Lord King, who it must be confest, thus hitherto, he has not had the same Opportunity to give us such publick and Signal Proofs of his Zeal and Protection, as the other illustrious Lord: Nevertheless, we are entirely satisfi'd as to his favourable Disposition towards our Cause, knowing him to be ready upon all Occasions to do what Service he can, to promote the Advancement of our Religion, and to second the Zeal of our Missionaries; for which reason, we ought to consider him as a Main Pillar of the Christian Religion in China, and whose whole Affection does not in the least fall short of that of the Lord God. If it were permitted me, to publish certain Particulars relating to this Subject, which I am very well acquainted with, to my own Knowledge, I could relate such things as would give sufficient Cause for the whole Church to rejoice at.

To put the last Hand (as I may say, the finishing Stroke to the Portraiture of this Great Prince, I will make bold to say, That in so many Respects he resembles

Your

Your Majesty, that like You, he would be one of the most Accomplished Monarchs that ever wore a Crown; if he could likewise attain to that Happiness to resemble You in one point more, which makes Your illustrious Reign appear with greater Lustre in the Christian World, I mean in that point which relates to our Religion.

To attain to this happiness, the present Emperor of China must embrace the Christian Faith, and profess it with the same Sincerity as You. It is next to an impossibility for us to dive into his Thoughts, or to this point, or to guess at what he keeps conceal'd in his Breast. But if it may be allowed us, to judge by these things we have been eye-witnesses of, by the knowledge he has of the Fundamental parts of our Religion, and the Esteem he shews, or at least seems to shew for it, by the publick protection he affords to the Missionaries, and the favourable Sentiments he has concerning them and our Religion, inspired into his Subjects, the Chiefest Men of his Court into the Prince, his Sons, nay even into him, who is declared his Successour in the Empire; We may, I think, without presumption conceive some hopes, that this Great Prince is not far from the Kingdom of Heaven.

What else can be concluded from these many Favours, he heaps without intermission upon the Ministers of the Gospel? Some of the most Remarkable, I have had occasion to mention before. Since,

The History of CANG-HY,

which, he has extended his Bounty further than ever before to our Missionaries. For he thought it not sufficient to allow them Lodgings within the precinct of his Royal Palace at Peking, but not long after my departure, he generously assigned them a very spacious piece of Ground in the same place, for the Building of a most Magnificent Church, to be dedicated to the True God; and they are not without hopes that he will be the Founder of himself.

If this Prince had the Happiness to be actually become a Member of our holy Church, and had taken a firm Resolution to communicate the same to all his Subjects; it is scarce to be imagined, he could give us more evident proofs of his Satisfaction, than he has done of late, on the account of the happy progress of the Gospel in his Dominions, after the publication of his Edicts in favour of the Christian Religion. Let us feel what the *Hollander* themselves say upon this point, the following Relation being an Abstract of some Letters sent from *Adacan* and *Peking*, towards the end of the Year 1695, which is inserted in their *Historical Transactions*, printed at the Hague. The Emperour of China, since the Publication of his Edict, whereby Freedom is granted to all his Subjects, to embrace the Christian Faith, takes so much Satisfaction to understand the good Success the Missionaries meet with in all Parts of the Empire, in Converting Great Numbers of the Chinese,

An. 1697
for the
Month of
Febr.

ses, that he has given Permission to two Italian Jesuits, who were at his Court, to go, and Preach the Gospel in the most remote Provinces, under his Jurisdiction; the People having earnestly desired, that some Fathers might be sent thither, to shew them the way to Heaven. And the favourable Disposition of this Great Monarch towards the Christian Religion, gives us all imaginable Hopes, to see the whole Empire of China, under the Christian Faith, within the next Hundred Years.

Beside's which, they give us an Account of the Conversion of six or seven Persons of Great Quality and Authority among the Chinese; which, as they say, makes so great a Noise in the Court, that their daily Entertainment is there, concerning the Christian Religion. They add; That among the common People, the Number who are ready to receive Baptism, is so Great in some Parts of the Empire, that the Missionaries who are there, are not sufficient to Administer it to all that are desirous of it. That the Emperour is often heard to speak very favourably of our Religion; That he takes particular Delight in the Conversion of his Subjects; and speaks much in Commendation of the Zeal the Missionaries shew in their Function. And that he has made more pressing Instances to four Jesuits, that are at his Court, to send without delay for more of their Fraternity, to aid and assist them in their Ministerial Function.

I am sure this was one of the Principal Instructions I receiv'd from this Prince at that time, when I was ready to repeat the Seas, as I have had the Honour to give an Account of it to Your Majesty. He desired then, that above all other things, such of the French Jesuits as were then in the *East Indies*, might be forthwith sent into *China*; but especially Father Tachard and Father le Comte. For, having understood that both of them were design'd by Your Majesty, to go as Missionaries into *China*, as well as we, he was extremely desirous to have them at his Court. And it was a considerable time before, to wit, when he invited Father Fontenay and Father Pisselou thither. That he had given his express Commands, to induce Father le Comte (for whom he had a most particular Respect) to come to *Peking* with his Companions.

But as Providence would have it, when I came to the *Indies*, I could not meet with any one Jesuit, that was in a Condition to undertake so long a Voyage. I made therefore all possible dispatch to return into *France*; and, pursuant to the Instructions received from this Great Prince, to address my self to Your Majesty, to sollicite for as many Missionaries to be sent into *China*, as could be had; but especially of the same Character with those that are already at his Court, with whom he is satisfied to the highest degree.

For it is to be taken notice of, That the French Jesuits, such as are well vers'd in all sorts of useful Arts and Sciences, are the Persons of whom this Prince makes the greatest Account; he persisting in his Resolution, to make use of them, with those employed there already; to erect a kind of Academy within his Palace, subordinate to your Royal Academy; of which he has conceiv'd so high an Idea, since that Time we have shewn to him, and Translated some of our Treatises into the *Tartarian* Language; That his Resolution is, that from thence, as the most excellent and pure Spring-head, may be taken most of these Memoirs, which are to be the Subject Matter of those Works he intends to have Translated into the same Language, especially those who treat of our Arts and Sciences, which he intends to encourage with all his Might throughout all his Dominions.

Great Advantage must needs arise from this Project to the Christian Religion, when those who are to be employed upon this subject, may be of great use in propagating the Faith, by giving Assistance to the rest in their Ministerial Function; it being rationally to be supposed, that by dividing the several Subjects in hand betwixt them, according to their different Talents, they may bestow great part of their time in promoting the Doctrine of the Gospel, which ought always to be their Principal

And Besides which, they will have the opportunity of obliging the World every year with many Curious and exact Observations and Reflections concerning diverse Matters, as likewise with the Translations of the best Chinese and Tartarian Treatises, which may in a little conduce towards the perfecting of some of our Arts and Sciences, on several of which our Learned Men will not be backward in furnishing them with what new Discoveries are made here, for the Benefit of the Christianess, which, as we hope, may be made use of with good Success; to meet with them easier an Access among the Learned Men, the Great Men of the Court, the Princes and Emperour himself, and will furnish us with frequent opportunities to enlarge ourselves upon the Fundamentals of our Religion, which by degrees, thro' the Grace of God, may dispose them to the embracing of the Faith.

For it has been sufficiently prov'd by the Experience of this last Age, That, since God has pleased to make the Missionaries Instrumental in introducing and planting the Christian Religion in China, of all other natural Means nothing has contributed so much to the accomplishment of this Great Work, than their knowledge of all useful Sciences, from whence we may rationally infer, that even to this day, he would have us have recourse to the same Methods,

Methods, to root out Paganism in this Empire.

It has been a general Observation, That the *Chineses*, whose Genius is much elevated above all other Pagan Nations, and who consequently are sooner brought to understand and follow the Dictates of right Reason, are commonly sooner prevailed upon than the rest, to be instructed in the fundamental Principles of the Christian Religion, and to yield to the Truth of the Gospel; provided matters be made perspicuous to them, and in a Method agreeable to their Genius by such persons, as have before deserved their Esteem, and acquired a great Authority among them, by their Ability and an exemplary Life: God Almighty, who upon these Occasions, is always very Bountiful in shewing his Mercy, and regulating the inward Motions of hearts, having extended his Mercy in a peculiar manner to the *Chineses*, so, that by the affluence of his Spirit, many of the most Learned among them have acknowledged their Error in their mistaken Wisdom, and submitted with all Humility to the Doctrine of the Gospel.

All this duly considered, who can reasonably doubt, but that, when by God's singular Inspiration, You resolved some Years ago, to send some *French* Jesuits, to *China*, to be employed in the Conversion of the Infidels; it was by the same

Motive

Motive that You gave them Your Instructions concerning the Improvement of Arts and Sciences? And that Providence having been pleased to second Your Great and Holy Intentions, has raised such a favourable Disposition in the Hearts of the *Chinese*, and of the Emperour of *China* himself towards these Missionaries, that the Prince has thought it convenient to sollicit Your Majesty for a far greater Number of them.

What is it we may not hope for from the happy Effects of Your Heroick Zeal to which You put no Bounds, for the good of God's Cause? If we may presume to preface of the future by what is past, especially in respect of what Your Majesty has been pleased to do of late Years in favour of the Missions into the Eastern Countries, into *Ethiopia* and the *Indies*, only upon a bare Prospect of introducing our Religion among these Pagans; we may promise ourselves all the hopes for success from those sent into *China*, which none are more valuable than all the rest together, because they are likely to bring a greater Number of Infidels to the Church, than may be expected from all the other Parts of the World, provided there were a proportionable Number of Ministers to the Multitude of those who shew a greater willingness to be instructed, than in those parts.

towards our Religion in the Heart of the Prince

The

The present Emperour of *China's* Bounty in granting free Liberty to all his Subjects to embrace the Catholick Faith, is alone a sufficient Motive to induce us to live in hopes, that we may see that vast Empire of *China*, entirely reduced under the Obedience of Christ. But if this Great Prince should lead the way, and encourage his Subjects by his own Example, we have all the reason in the World to hope, that we may see this Great work accomplish'd under the Auspicious Reign of Your Majesty.

It must be confess'd, that without almost a miraculous Providence of God, it is not easie to hope for the Conversion of so Great and Potent a Prince, who is a Pagan. But let us consider on the other hand, the extraordinary Effort he has always shewn for, and the powerful Protection he affords to the Christian Religion; Let us, I say, consider that this Prince is free from all these Vices, which being contrary to the Rules of our Religion, proves frequently the Main stumbling-block to Pagan Princes to embrace the Faith of Christ; and that he has made all these Moral Vertues, which are so rarely to be met with in a Pagan Prince his constant practice; all these things considered together, we may not without great reason presume to hope, that the same God who has rais'd such favourable Inclinations towards our Religion in the Heart of this Prince,

Prince, may be prevail'd upon to extend his Boundless Mercy towards him, especially if the Faithful in their fervent Prayers to him, do implore his Mercy in behalf of this Prince and his Subjects.

I lay, in behalf of this Prince and all his Subjects: For, as this Emperour is invested with an absolute Power over all his Subjects, as he is most Famous throughout all the Orient by reason of his extraordinary Genius, Wisdom, Learning and uncommon Piety: so, we have all the reason in the World to believe, that, if he should be prevail'd upon to embrace the Christian Religion, his Examples would be sufficient to induce all his Subjects to tread in his footsteps, who, for their number, exceed all Nations in Europe. And it is not improbable, but that, considering the high Esteem those Nations breeding on China, have conceiv'd of their extraordinary Wisdom, and how much they are inclined to follow their Maxims and Customs, this would be prevailing enough with many to be entirely reconciled to our holy Religion.

The most fortunate Opportunity that could be wish'd for, the most advantageous for the Establishment of our Church, and the most Glorious to Your Majesty, who seems to be chosen by Heaven, the happy Instrument of advancing the Honour of the Church, to Crown all the Actions of

of *Lewis the Great* with this, the most
Glorious of all Your Enterprizes. No-
thing less can be imagined to be a Recom-
pense bearing the least proportion to that
Heroick Zeal and Magnanimity, of which
Your Majesty has given such ample De-
monstrations to all the World within these
ten Years last past, during which, after
You had protected the Church, both by
the force of Your Arms, and Your unpa-
rall'd Conduct, against the Joyn'd power
of *Europe*, You were, notwithstanding all
the Advantages on Your side, neverthe-
less disposed to offer Peace to Your En-
emies upon very advantageous Terms on
their side, out of a Generous Motive for the
Publick Good, and the universal Benefit
of the Church.

Among those Vows and Prayers, which
we send without intermission up to Hea-
ven, for the Conversion of the present
Emperour of China and all his Subjects,
we are never forgetful to offer our hearty
Thanks to God, for the Conclusion of the
last Peace, which in all probability will
prove more advantageous to China than Eu-
rope itself. For by the re-establishing a free
Commerce, our Ships will not want Op-
portunity to carry every Year some new
Missionaries to the utmost Parts of the
East; so that we may reasonably expect
to be Rejoyced with the most agreeable
News of the Conversion of many Thou-
sand *Chineses*, by the Assistance of these

Fa-

Fathers, who are to be sent thither under Your Majesty's Protection, to labour for the Encrease of the Empire of JESU CHRIST.

I live in hopes to hear suddenly, that some more of our Fraternity are to be sent by Your Majesty, with the first Ships design'd for *China*, where, I am sure, they will be at least as well received, as any other Nation. And I hope from Your Majesty's Goodness, that I may be thought Worthy to be one of their Company, to return with all possible Speed into that Part of the World, where the Sun has its Rise. It shall be my Chief aim, there to second Your extraordinary Zeal in propagating the Christian Religion among the Infidels, in the most remote Parts of the World; And, as a particular Acknowledgement of these Favours You have been pleas'd to heap upon me, I shall not neglect the least Opportunity of publishing, wherever I come, Your Great Actions; but especially to give an exact Account of what I have seen, during my stay here, to the present Emperour of *China*, who, of all other Princes, takes the greatest Satisfaction in hearing of Your Glorious Enterprizes, and is the most worthy of Your Esteem and Friendship.

To conclude, I will join my hearty Prayers, with all the Faithful *Chinenses*, who look upon Your Majesty as their Chief

Chief Supporter, for the Preservation of Your Royal Person and Family, as an un-
 signed Testimony of the most profound
 Respect and Devotion, wherewith I pre-
 sume to subscribe my self.

I live in hope, that I may be thought
 some more of our Fraternity are to be
 sent by Your Majesty, with the first ships
 designed for China, where I am sure they
 will be at least as well received as any
 other Nation. And I hope from Your
 Majesty's Goodness, that I may be thought
 worthy to be one of their Company, to
 be sent into that

Your Majesty's

Most humble, most obedient, and

Part of the World, where the Sun has its
 Rise. It shall be my Chief aim, there to
 second Your extraordinary Zeal in propa-
 gating the Christian Religion among the

Most faithful Servant,

Indels in the most remote Parts of the
 World; And as a particular Acknow-
 ledgement of these Favours You have
 been pleased to bestow on me, I shall not
 neglect the least Opportunity of publi-
 shing, wherever I come, Your Great Affec-
 tion, and exact Account

J. BOUVET, of the

Society of Foreign Missions

of what I have seen, during my stay
 here, to the present Emperor of China,
 who, of all other Princes, takes the
 greatest Satisfaction in hearing of Your
 Glorious Enterprises, and is the most
 worthy of Your Esteem and Friend-
 ship.

To conclude, I will join my hearty
 Prayers with all the Faithful Company
 who look upon You as their

FINIS.

and the other for the instruction of
your Royal Person and Family, as an un-
equal testimony of the most profound
Respect and Devotion, wherein I pre-
sume to subscribe my self,

Yours Majesty's

Most humble and devoted servant,

John Baptist de la Motte

J. BONAVENTURE

Secretary of the State

FINIS



ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE
READER.

When I consider the Genius of the Age we live in, which is so much inclined to call in question every thing that comes from far Remote Places, I have all the Reason in the World, to fear that these Memoirs will undergo the same Fate, and will not meet with that favourable interpretation, the faithfulness and exactness where-with they are written, might justly Challenge from unqualified Persons.

A

But

To the Reader.

But as I have not inserted the least thing of which I have not either been an Eye-witness my self, or else have received it my self from unquestionable hands, so I am not to flatter my self, that the Reader will look upon this Relation with another Eye, than is commonly done upon ordinary accounts: I hope no body will think me so Impudent, as to dare to Present to the most quick-sighted and greatest Monarch of the World, any thing which is not in all its circumstances, agreeable to Truth; which must needs bring upon me the just Indignation of His Majesty, and at the same time, be a means to forfeit the Good Opinion of the Greatest Emperour of the *Orient*.

— But whatever the Spirit of Contradiction may be able to invent, to render these Memoirs suspected to the World. I don't question, but that Truth which is represented here without Contradiction, in its Genuine

To the Reader.

ine Shape, will protect me both here and in *China* against all gain-sayers; the only thing which I have to relent at, being, that I have not been able to represent in their full Lustre all such Matters, as most needs be infinitely pleasing to all, who are truly Zealous for the propagation of the Faith.

BOUVET.

~~But whatever the spirit of Con-~~
tradiction may be able to invent to
render these Memoirs suspected to
the World I don't question, but that
which is represented here
without Contradiction, in its Gen-
TO

TO THE
Most Christian King.

May it please Your Majesty.

THE Portraiture which I am
taking the Liberty to present
at this time to Your Majesty, is cer-
tainly the One of the rarest and most
curious that has been brought from
the East. All the Memoirs, both of
time past, and even of this Country,
can furnish us but with very few Sub-
jects, which, If I dare presume to
say so, are more worth Your Attention
and Curiosity; I need not say any thing
more than, that it is the Portraiture
of a Monarch, who having the good
Fortune to Resemble Your Majesty in
most Respects, enjoys the same Ad-
vantages in reference to his great Sta-
tion, among the Pagan Princes, which
Your Majesty is possess'd of in the
Christian World.

The

Epistle Dedicatory.

The Jesuits, which by Your Majesty have been Employed as Missionaries into China some years ago, were not a little surpris'd to meet at the utmost corner of the Earth with what they had never seen before but in France, that is to say, a Prince, who, like Your self, has improved his sublime Genius by that Greatness of Soul, which alone renders him worthy of the greatest Empire of the Universe; who has the same uncontroll'd Power over his Passions, as over his Subjects, equally Adored by his People and Esteemed by his Neighbours; who, as his Glorious Enterprizes have been Crowned with Success, so stands more indebted for it to his own Valour and Conduct, than Fortune; In short, a Prince in whom are center'd most of these great Qualifications requisite to make an accomplish'd Hero, and who would without question be accounted the most Glorious Monarch upon Earth, if his Reign had not been coincident with that of Your Majesty.

Epistle Dedicatory.

It must be confess'd that hitherto he is so unhappy as to be a Pagan, which makes him incapable of these most Eminent Prerogatives, without which all the other Royal Qualities want the most solid Foundation; yet it may be truly said of him, that he has made a considerable step towards it by the High Esteem he has of our Religion, by the Satisfaction he takes in the Conversion of his Subjects to the Christian Faith, which gives us no small hopes, that in time, by the Grace of God, he entirely united to the Church.

For, considering what favourable Inclinations God has been pleased to inspire into his Heart for the Christian Religion, by the means of our Arts and Sciences; we are not beyond hopes, that one day he may prove the Destruction of the Pagan Idolatry in China; endeavouring in this, as in many other things, to tread in the footsteps of Your Majesty, who have made it Your Chiefest Glory, to root out Heresie in your Dominions, and

Epistle Dedicatory.

to propagate the true Religion thro-
out all Parts of the World.

Will it not be the greatest Happi-
ness and Glory of Your Majesty's
Reign, that the same Arts and Sci-
ences, which have been brought to
the highest pitch of Perfection by your
Encouragement and protection, should
be the happy Instruments of these fa-
vourable Inclinations, the professed Em-
peror of China shews for our Reli-
gion; and if the Chinese should be
convinced in time of the Great ad-
vantage the Truth of the Gospel has
over their vain Philosophy, to
serve as a Means both for the Sovere-
ign and his Subjects, to submit
themselves, notwithstanding all their
Self-conceit, (in which they surpass
most Nations) to the forcible Truth
of the Christian Religion.

These are the hopes which may
be conceived from true Historical
Portraiture of this Prince, the only
thing I fear, is, that the Pencil of
the Painter has done considerable
wrong to the Original. But if all the

Linea-

Epistle Dedicatory.

Lineaments are not so Nice and Exact as they should be, I am sure they are true; and all the Favours this Monarch has been pleased to heap upon us, have not been Powerful enough to induce me, to deviate in the least from the Respect due to Your Majesty: and Truth it self, in so Nice a Point, in which the Interest of the Gospel, which was never separated from Yours, is so narrowly concerned.

THE

The Present

CONDITION

OF THE

Muscovite EMPIRE,

TILL THE

YEAR 1699,

In a LETTER from a Gentleman, who was Con-versant with the late Muscovite Ambassadors in Holland.

SIR,

IN your last you desired me to acquaint you with what I had been able to learn concerning the present State of *Muscovy*, during the Stay of that most solemn Embassy of His *Czarish* Majesty in this City. I am extreaimly well pleased, you have put me in the way of satisfying in some

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measure

The present Condition

measure your Curiosity, having by the frequent Conversation with the said Ambassadors, had the opportunity to inform myself of several Matters of great Consequence, not commonly known in these Parts. I cannot but be amaz'd at the strange Notions the greatest Part have form'd to themselves of the present Condition of the *Muscovites*, being prepossess'd with an Opinion, that this Monarchy is of so little Consequence in respect of the other *European* Kingdoms, as scarce to be worth taking notice of.

But whoever will take the trouble to make a true insight into the present Posture of their Affairs, will be forced to confess, that there are few Kingdoms in *Europe*, which at this time may be look'd upon as a more proper Object of our Curiosity.

It is not to be denied, but that before the Year 1645, when Czar *Alexis Michaelovitch* (his present *Czarish* Majesty's Father) came to the Crown, the *Muscovites* were much more barbarous, that they cultivated but a very slender Correspondence, and had but little Commerce with foreign Nations; and that being ill vers'd in all manner of Sciences, they were consequently very ignorant of the Military Art and Discipline, at least as it is practis'd now a-days in *Europe*; which was the true Reason of their ill Success in so many Encounters, and that, tho' naturally fierce and hardy, they were frequently worsted by their Enemies, tho' much inferior in Number.

of the Muscovite Empire. 3

The Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, a Prince of a vast Understanding, and a Great Politician, having immediately after his Accession to the Throne, investigated the true Cause of the Disadvantage, the *Muscovites* lay under at that time, in respect of other foreign Nations, applied all his Thoughts to remove this Obstacle. The best Expedient he could pitch upon, was, to draw into his Service as many foreign Officers as possibly he could, to instruct his Subjects in the Modern Art of War; And the better to compass his Design, he made use of all the Politicks that could have been invented by the most refined Politician. For being sensible, that it would be no easie Task to engage a considerable Number of well qualified foreign Officers into his Service, he insensibly brought them over to his Party, by the Promises of great Pay, of entire Liberty of Conscience, of what Religion soever; and by taking them into his Service but for a little time: all which was very punctually observed on his side. Thus he put his projected Design in execution, with so extraordinary Success, that according to the Account given by the Baron of *Meyerbergh*, who was in the Year 1662, sent by his present Imperial Majesty *Leopold*, as his Ambassador into *Muscovy*, there were among the foreign Officers in the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*'s Service, two Generals, two Marshals de Camp, above a hundred Collonels, a great Number of Majors; Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns, in

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The present Condition

prodigious Numbers, who were all paid very punctually: This Account coming from a Person, who otherwise seldom speaks well of the *Muscovites* and their Affairs, deserves to be particularly taken notice of in this place:

These abovementioned Officers, having made their Levies in divers parts of the Country, subject to the Obedience of the Czars of *Muscovy*, and brought them under a regular Martial Disciplines, did afterwards in several Encounters with the *Poles* and *Swedes*, give sufficient Proofs, that the *Muscovites* don't want Bravery, when they are led on by good and experienced Officers. But, besides these new Levies, the Czar had always on foot a certain standing Number of old Troops, not unlike to the *Roman* Legions; those the *Muscovites* call *Strelitzes*, consisting of forty Thousand Men, under the Command of the Chiefest of the Nobility of the Empire.

It is further to be observed, that the introducing of a more regular Discipline among the *Muscovite* Forces, was not the only Reason which induc'd the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, to entertain so vast a Number of foreign Officers in his Service, it having been prov'd by Experience, That the same was in a great measure, founded upon the Security of the Prince's Person, who before that time, having committed the whole Management of their standing Forces to the Nobility, thereby gave them frequent opportunities of abusing their Power,

of the Muscovite Empire. 5

er, in opposition to the Royal Authority.

This Great Prince died in the Year 1676, much lamented by his People, whose Darling he was, as having not once, in all his Reign, in the least abused his Absolute Power, but given them a thousand Demonstrations of his Moderation, Justice and Piety. It was he, that first changed the face of Affairs of the *Russian* Empire, and laid that Foundation, upon which the Greatness of *Muscovy* has been built since that time, and which is likely to be brought to perfection, by the present Grand Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*.

He left the Succession of the Crown to his eldest Son, *Fedor Alexiovitz*, who reigned but six years, his early Loss was likewise much lamented by his Subjects, being a very Accomplish'd Person, and who had given extraordinary hopes of a Good and Great Prince, having exactly followed his Father's footsteps, especially in what concerns the foreign Officers, and the Encouragement of Commerce. He was a great lover of all Sciences, but especially of the Mathematicks, and design'd to have all the Houses of the City of *Muscon*, new built of Brick, and the Streets pav'd with Stones, if he had not been prevented by Death; It was under his Reign, that General *Le Fort*, of whom I shall have occasion to speak more anon, entred into the Service of *Muscovy*. He was on a sudden, seiz'd by a violent and continual Fever, of which he died in a few days after; having before

The present Condition

his death appointed his younger Brother *Peter*, begotten by a second Adventure, his Successour, as judging his own Brother *Ivan (John)* who was of a weakly Constitution, incapable of bearing the Burthen of so Great an Empire.

Accordingly *Peter Alexiovitz* was proclaimed Czar of *Muscovy*, when he was scarce eleven years of Age. By the Princess *Sophia*, Daughter of the deceased Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, by his first Marriage, being of a very aspiring Temper, and naturally disposed to Caballing, could not brook to see her own Brother excluded from the Succession to the *Russian* Throne; for which Reason, she set all her Engines at work, to put the Crown upon her Brother *Ivan Alexiovitz*, or rather, her own Head. The better to encompass this Design, she took care to have it spread abroad, that the late Czar *Fedor Alexiovitz*, her Brother, had been poisoned by the Physicians, at the Instigation of some of the Chief Men of the Empire, whose Names were industriously published as the Authors and Promoters of so hellish a Crime. Being sensible that nothing could strengthen her Interest more, than if she could draw the *Strelitzes* into her Party; it was rumour'd abroad, That a Design was form'd against them at Court, it being resolved, That the Strong Liquor which was to be given at the Czar's Funeral, should be mix'd with Poyson;

This

of the Muscovite Empire. 7

This succeeded according to the Princess Expectation, for the *Strelitzes* being Enraged by this sudden and unexpected News, ran in a most Furious manner to the Palace, where they began the Fray with the Slaughter of two of the Czar's Physicians, the Chief of whom was a Jew by Extraction; the next were some of the Principal Officers of the Crown, such as were mark'd out by the Princess, as being opposite to her Interest. Their Rage did not stop here, but after they had committed a thousand Insolences and Murthers, they assaulted, and entred the Czar *Peter Alexiovit's* Lodgings, where they slew many of his most faithful Officers and Friends of the first Quality, in his presence, and then proclaimed Prince *Ivan Alexiovit*, Grand Czar of *Muscovy*, in conjunction with *Peter Alexiovit*.

Thus a Calm succeeded the Storm, which however lasted not long. For the Princess *Sophia*, whose Ambition was not satisfied with seeing her Brother *Ivan* mounted upon the Throne, entred into secret Cabals with *Feder (Theodore) Chikalomitin*, the General of the *Strelitzes*, unto whom she represented, That she only having made use of her Brother, as a Pretext to put the Crown upon her own Head, she was willing to make him her Spouse, and Associate in the Empire, if he would join his Power and Interest with hers, and that it would be no difficult Matter to compass their Design, the *Russian Empire* being too heavy

a Burthen for the Shoulders of two Infants,

The General of the *Strelitzes*, not able to resist such powerful Charms, they left no stone unturn'd to bring their projected Design to maturity, which was to be begun with the Death of both the Czars, and would in all humane probability have succeed according to their wish, if the Plot had not been timely discovered to Their Majesties.

The two Czars having all the reason in the World to mistrust the *Strelitzes*, retired thereupon to the Convent of *Troitza*, a strong and well fortified place, about twelve Leagues distance from the Capital City of *Muscow*, where Monsieur *Le Fort* gave them many signal Proofs of his Bravery and Fidelity. To be short, they drew the General of the *Strelitzes* into an Ambush near *Troitza*, where being taken, he was carried Prisoner into the Convent, and had his Head cut off. He was a Person of mean Extraction, who, as he had raised himself to that height by his own Valour, so he brought himself to a miserable End by his Treachery; The Princess *Sophia* was shut up in a Convent, where she is very narrowly watch'd.

Quiet being thus recovered in the Government, by removing the Two Chief Heads of the Rebellion, these Regiments of the *Strelitzes*, as had shew'd themselves most vigorous against the Czars Interest, being divided into many small Bodies, were sent into several parts of the Country under the Guard of some other Troops, whose

Officers

of the Muscovite Empire. 9

Officers having received secret Instructions to fall upon them at a certain appointed time, they put their Orders in execution, with so much Exactness, that very few escaped their Hands.

It was particularly taken notice of at that time, and look'd upon as a Presage of the future Greatness of the present Czar *Peter Alexiovitcz*, that, when several of his nearest Friends were massacred by the *Rebellious Strelitzes* in his presence, he did not shew the least Alteration in his Countenance, which struck such an Amazement into the Soldiers, that they durst not presume to dethrone him, but were contented to proclaim his Brother *Ivan* his Associate in the Empire. Those who have known his present *Czarish* Majesty in his most tender Age, do unanimously confess, That from his very Infancy, there has been observed in him a certain Greatness of Soul, and a piercing Wit, much above the common Rank. He used to be very seldom idle, but always in Action, lively and brisk, and shew a great deal of eagerness to be instructed in all Matters of Moment, especially in what had any relation to the Manners and Customs of foreign Nations. He was scarce fifteen years of Age, when he applied himself to the Study of the Mathematicks, his Inclinations tending more particularly to Navigation, and other Mechanick Arts, which he look'd upon as the most Instrumental, to promote these Great Designs, he has since put in execution with a most stupendious Conduct and Prudence.

H

In the last War betwixt the *Turks*, the *Emperour*, *Poland* and *Venice*, the *Czar* was Engaged in a War against the *Chinese*, who being, as it was supposed, encouraged by some Missionaries, had upon very frivolous Pretences attack'd the *Muscovites*; but the *Czar* being resolved not to let slip so favourable an opportunity to act against the *Ottomans*, in conjunction with the beforementioned Christian Princes, he chose rather to abate something of his Pretensions to procure a lasting Peace betwixt him and the *Chinese*. He had also all the Reason imaginable to promise himself a happy issue of this War on his side, the *Turks* being at that time by their ill Success, and the many Battels they had in *Hungary*; reduced to so low a condition, that they were not in a capacity to make any considerable resistance; and he look'd upon the Conquest of *Asoph* as a thing of so much consequence to the *Muscovite* Empire, that it ought to be attempted at any rate, especially since the Fortifications of that place were in so different a Condition, as to give him no small hopes of succeeding in this Enterprize.

Besides this, the *Czar* was induced by another motive, which as it was nearer home, so he look'd upon it as the most pressing in relation to his own Person. He had as yet in fresh memory the rebellious inclinations of his Guards the *Sirelitzes* and did not question, but that by this War he should find means to rid himself of them, or at least to repress their Insolence, by augmenting the number of foreign Of-

ficers,

of the Muscovite Empire. II

ficers, well qualified and exercised in the Military Art, whose Fortunes depending absolutely on him, he might intirely be assured of their Service and Fidelity. Accordingly it was resolved to make considerable new Levies to be commanded by foreign Officers whose number was augmented to eight thousand; and the Troops under their Command being in some time after, brought by their care under a very regular Discipline in the year 1695. The City of *Asoph* and *Kasermeen* were both besieged the same time, to render the relief of *Asoph* the more difficult to the Enemy, this being the place Chiefly aimed at by the *Muscovites*.

Our Geographers do most commonly fix the situation of *Asoph* to the North of the River *Tanais* on the side of the *Crim Tartary*, whereas its true situation is to the South, on the side of *Circassia*, upon a rising ground very near the *Palus Mæotis*. Neither is this City built upon an Island, as it is represented in some Maps, neither are any other Islands to be seen thereabouts, either near the mouth of the River, or in the *Palus Mæotis* itself, as it is likewise expressed in these Maps, unless it be one very small Isle which lies at the very mouth of the River *Tanais* (now a-days called the *Don*) towards the North-west, very near the Coast.

About two Leagues above this Fortrefs, the River *Tanais* emits a branch which runs towards the North, in the form of

a Semy-circle before it enters the *Palus Martis*, but it is both very narrow and shallow. A good way, beyond this, a little above the Town, issues forth another Branch, which ruuning likewise to the North in the form, approaching to a Semy-circle, divides it self into five other Branches, just before it disembogues into the Sea. But this Branch is also of a very slender depth, and the Ground thereabouts, through which those several Channels pass, very low and Marshy, so, that at high Water when the Wind blows strong from the South, which drives the Waters from the black Sea, upon that Coast, all the Country hereabouts lies under Water.

You will, I suppose, be not a little surpris'd, when I tell you, that the *Muscovites* in their Maps put *Asoph* under the 47th degree of Northern Latitude, and so do likewise the *Turks*; whereas in our Maps we find it under the 51st degree, or thereabouts. But, what deserves our particular observation is, That our Maps agree exactly with theirs in the scituation of that part of the Country where the *Tanais* or *Don*, approaches nearest to the River *Wolga*, which both they and we put under the 49th Degree. I can only thus much assure you, that the *Muscovites*, who are generally taken for very ignorant and unpublish'd, have compos'd the most exactest Maps of their own Country in the World, I having seen some of them my self; and that they

of the Muscovite Empire. 13

they exclaim against ours, as very imperfect in this point.

The City of *Asoph* was formerly no more than a small Place, fortified only with one single Wall, after a very irregular manner; its Form approaching to a *Hexagon*, two of its opposite sides lying near parallel with the River, surrounded with many Towers, after the ancient Fashion. About the middle of that side which is opposite to the *West*, there was a very large Tower of a considerable height, round at the bottom, running up like a Pyramid, but flat on the top; within the body of the Place there was another Retrenchment, which supplied the place of a Cittadel, and was provided always with a good Garrison. The *Turks* afterwards surrounded the whole with new Fortifications of Earth, compos'd of our large and high Bastions, but not very regular, yet is the Ditch both very broad and deep. Two of these Bastions towards the *South-East* Side lie pretty close to one another, for the better defence of the Place, in respect of the nearness of several Hills, which else would command the Town. The third Bastion to the *South-West*, is at a great distance from the other two, and the fourth Bastion towards the *West* is yet further distant from the third. The Courtin betwixt these two last Bastions has in the midst an Oblique Angle; the like has also the Courtin towards the *East*, which runs down to the River; and on the River side it is very well provided with strong Pallisadoes.

Besides

Besides this, they had built a little above the Place two strong Towers of brick-work, and of a quadrangular figure, one on each side of the River, provided with good store of Cannon, by which means, and a very strong Chain, they prevented the *Donaick Cossacks* from passing that way to the black Sea, who formerly used to take the advantage of the darkness of the Night, when they went a Pyrating upon the *Turks*. This was the condition of *Asoph*, when the *Muscovites* first laid siege to it, in the Year 1695.

It may well seem strange, that the *Turks* should either so little understand the advantage of the Situation of this Important Place, or else be so negligent in providing for its Security, as not to take away all Hopes from the *Muscovites* of succeeding in this Enterprize. In my Opinion, it was not only their highest Interest to have secured a Place of so much Consequence against any Attempt of this nature, by rendering it Impregnable, but also to have as much as possibly they could, extend their Conquests on that side, by making themselves Masters of the Country betwixt the Rivers *Don* and *Volga*, which thereabouts approach within seven Leagues distance to one another. Besides which, there are two other Rivers betwixt the *Don* and the *Volga*, one of which coming from the North East, is pretty large, and discharges it self into the River *Don*. The other much lesser, coming from the South West, disembogues into the *Volga*. These two Rivers carry their
Currents

Currents within one League and an half distance. These two Rivers, are invisible in our Maps, in lieu of which they have obtruded upon us a suppositious River, called *Cannus*, which is not to be found thereabouts. The Ground betwixt these two Rivers is very convenient for Building of Forts and Fortifications, there being but a few small Rocks, which may be made passable, and convenient enough for such an Undertaking.

The *Turks* shewed themselves but indifferent Politicians, and who had but a slender insight in matters of this nature, when they let slip so favourable an Opportunity of extending their Conquests on that side during the Intestine Troubles, which harassed, and almost destroyed the *Muscovite* Empire in our Age, at the same time that the *Ottomans* were in a most flourishing Condition. If they at that time had joined these two Rivers by a Canal, and strengthened the same with some Forts; or if they had built but one considerable Fortress upon the River *Volga*, the whole Kingdom of *Astracan* must of necessity have fall'n into their Hands, by which means it would have been no difficult task for them to render themselves Masters of the *Caspian* Lake, or Sea, which is the Inlett into the Heart of *Persia*, and at no great distance from the *Indies*, Subject to the Great *Mogul*, and for the rest it is surrounded by a great number of Petty *Tartarian* Princes, who might either have been easily Conquered, or at least brought

brought over to their Party to make them instrumental in the Conquest of *Asia*, What would in such a Case have become of the *Muscovites*, who would have been continually allarm'd, and harass'd on all sides by an infinite number of *Tartars*, by those of the *Crimæa*, of *Circassia*, *Bulgaria*, by the *Calmuks* and *Mogul Tartars*, who like a Torrent would have over-run this vast Empire, and would have rendred the Conquest of all the Circumjacent Countries as cheap and easie to the *Turks*, as these Vagabonds formerly did, when they took up Arms under those Renown'd Heroes, *Ginghis Khan*, and *Tamur Lenek*.

There are two things which prevented the *Turks* from making use of that critical Juncture to their Advantage. The first was, that they look'd upon the *Muscovites* as too inconsiderable to stand ever in Competition with them, seeing they had not Courage enough to accept of the Fortres of *Asof* from the *Cossacks*, who had taken it by Surprise. The second was, That they were not so fully satisfied of the Consequence and use of a good Naval Strength, by which means they might most conveniently have enlarged their Dominions on that side, and carried the terror of their Arms not only along the *Volga*, but also by the way of the *Caspian Sea* into the very heart of *Asia*.

But to return to the Siege of *Asof*.

The

of the Muscovite Empire. 17

The *Turks* had provided the City of *Asofb* with great Stores of Ammunition and Provision, and all other things necessary for a long and vigorous Defence, the Garrison consisting of ten Thousand chosen *Turks* and *Tartars*; notwithstanding which, the present *Czar Peter Alexiowitz* resolved to besiege it in Person. His Army consisted of one Hundred Thousand Foot, and twenty Thousand Horse, all chosen Troops, and among them the whole Body of his Guards, or *Strelitzes*, commanded under the *Czar*, by a great many good and Experienced Generals.

Whilst they were busy in perfecting the Lines of Circumvallation, and Contravallation, and carrying on the Trenches, the *Czar* ordered a small Fort of four Bastions to be made at some distance above the two abovementioned brick Towers on the *South* side of the River, upon a piece of Ground that lies betwixt, and is encompassed by two small branches which spring out of that River, and re-unite themselves about half ways distance betwixt these Towers and the City. All the Communication being cut off betwixt the Place and the Towers by these two branches, it was not long before the *Muscovites* made themselves Masters of them, and it being judged most expedient to Fortifie that, on the *South* side of the River, it was immediately put in Execution accordingly, by surrounding it with three good Bastions, and an Angle on each of the Courtins on the

C River

River side. The Fort was called *Calansa*.

In the mean while the Trenches were carried on with the utmost Expedition and Vigour, especially on the *South East* side of the Place, where the *Muscovites* being advanced to the top of the Hills, which in some measure command the Town, they Fired most furiously out of their Cannon, and threw a prodigious number of Bombs into the Place, by which means they hop'd soon to terrifie the Garrison to come to a Capitulation; but those within consisting of old and well Disciplin'd Troops, who were not to be vanquish'd at a distance, the Trenches were carried on to the body of the Place, but not without great Slaughter on the *Muscovite* side; the Enemies by their frequent and vigorous Sallies disputing every Inch of Ground with the utmost bravery. The *Muscovites* were likewise courageously repulsed in several Attacks before they could lodge themselves upon one of the bastions, where the Garrison, like desperate Men, fell upon them with such an incredible Fury, that the *Russians* after a most obstinate Defence, were forced to quit it at last, with the loss of a great number of their Men, especially of the *Strelitzes*, who, as they were most exposed, so they bore most commonly the greatest Share in the loss, the *Czar* making use of this Opportunity, both to try their Valour, and rid his Hands of them in a handsome way; though at the same time it must be confess'd to his Immortal Glory,

of the Muscovite Empire. 19

that he was not sparing of his own Person, but exposed himself to the Enemies by Fire as well in the several Attacks that were made, as upon other occasions, having had several Persons slain by his side in the Sallies made by the Besieged. The invincible Resolution of the Garrison thus protracting the Siege beyond all Expectation, the *Muscovites* began to be in want both of Ammunition and Provisions, which, together with the approaching cold and wet Season, obliged them to change the Siege into a Blockade.

But the Disgrace received before *Asoph*, was in some measure recompensed by the Conquest of *Kasiker meen*, a Tartarian City situated on the South side of the River *Borisphenes*, about two Leagues distance from the *Black-Sea*.

It is encompassed by four strong brick Forts of a quadrangular Figure, and an equal bigness, adjoining to one another. Three of them lye upon a strait Line, but the fourth makes up a right Angle with the Second. The first of these Quadrangular Forts lies upon the very Bank of the River *Borisphenes*, being Flanked with several good Towers as well as the two others, which are upon the same Line. But the fourth exceeds the three others in strength, being on one side provided, instead of Towers, with two large, and high Bastions, surrounded with a good Ditch. Just opposite to the place you see a small Island in the River *Borisphenes*, re-

The present Condition

sembling in form, a Neats Tongue, called in their Language *Towan*. Upon this Island the *Tartars* had erected two Forts of four Bastions each, which on the upper end of the Island was called *Momberethkermeen*; as the other on the lower part was named *Musfiriskermeen*; on the opposite side of the River belonging to the *Crim Tartars*, there was also another Fort in all respects like to the other two, just over against *Momberethkermeen*, upon the Bank of the before-mentioned River *Boristhenes*.

The Army of his *Czarish* Majesty was chiefly compos'd of *Cossacks*, inhabiting those parts, and who some years before had submitted to the *Czar's* Obedience. To facilitate the Siege of *Kasikermeen*, it was resolv'd to Attack first the said Forts, which being done, accordingly they were soon taken by the brave *Cossacks* who immediately after laid Siege to the Place itself.

The main Attack was carried on against the Fort with the two bastions, the Ground thereabouts being most proper for the carrying on of the Trenches, which were advanc'd with so much Expedition, that in a short time they carried it by Assault. The Enemies however got time to retreat into the other Forts, where having beat a Parley, it was agreed that they should March out of the Place with their Arms and Baggage, &c.

The

of the Muscovite Empire. 21

The *Muscovite* Army on that side was commanded by the General *Czeremetoff*, who having contrary to the Capitulation, connived at some disorders committed by the *Cossacks* against the Garrison; his *Czarish* Majesty was so much dissatisfied at it, that he shewed his Resentment in very hard Terms to the General. He, who did not expect such a Reprimand, desired thereupon leave from the *Czar* to lay down his Commission, which being readily granted him likewise beyond his expectation, he, afterwards repented at leisure. The better to divert himself in this Melancholly Disposition, he resolved to Travel in Foreign Countries, and you are not ignorant, how he visited most of the Courts of *Italy*, and had the Curiosity to go to the Isle of *Maltha*, where, as well as in all other Places, thro' which he Travelled, he was receiv'd with all imaginable Respect due to his Birth and Merits.

The succeeding Winter was chiefly taken up with vast Preparations for the next ensuing Campaign, which being to be open'd with the Siege of *Asoph*, great stores of Ammunition, Bombs, and Provisions were got in readiness for that Enterprize to prevent the *Turks* from sending any Relief by Sea; many Gallies and Brigantines were order'd to be built near the City of *Moscow*, but especially at *Veranowitz*, a City situate on the River *Don*, about a Hundred Leagues distant from the Capital City. But what is most remarkable is that the *Czar* Pe-

ter having a particular curicity to be present at the building of some of the biggest Gallies, he caused them to be set upon the Stock, in the River *Ocea*, at some small distance from the City of *Muscov*, they being from thence to be Transported to *Veranowitz* by Land, were so artificially contrived, that they might be taken to pieces without much trouble, and so be joined together again at *Veranowitz*.

To be short, by the great Vigilancy of his *Czarish* Majesty, all things were got in such forwardness, that there was nothing wanting to put the projected Design in Execution.

'Tis to be observ'd that the City of *Asoph* had been kept block'd up during the whole Winter, and that the *Muscovites* having maintain'd their Post all this while upon the abovementioned Hills, which overlook the Place, they had been so Industrious in guarding all the Avenues, that the Besieged had not receiv'd the least Supply of Men, or Provisions. To cut off all further hopes of Succours, it was resolv'd to open the Campaign very early in the Spring, for which purpose all the Troops design'd for this Expedition, were order'd to March to their Rendezvous, and from thence strait to the Siege of *Asoph*, which was begun by throwng a most prodigious quantity of Bombs into the place, with such extraordinary Success, that the whole Body of the City was reduced to Ashes, and Rubbish, and the old Fortifications to

of the Muscovite Empire. 23

one large Stone heap, so that there was scarce a place left for the Garrison to shelter themselves against the fury of the Enemies Cannon and Bombs, all being destroyed even to the deepest Vaults and Caves.

Besides which, the Number of the besieged was reduced to less than two thousand Men capable of bearing of Arms, both by the furious Attacks made upon the place in the last years Siege, and the continual firing from the *Muscovites* Great Artillery, and throwing in of Bombs; in this; notwithstanding which, they were deaf to any proposals of a surrender, living in hopes of the promised Succours.

At last it appeared, to their great Joy and Satisfaction, consisting of twelve Gallies, a great number of Saiques laden with Provisions and Ammunition, and a good number of fresh Troops, besides fifty thousand Ducats, to be distributed among those brave Fellows that had so Valiantly defended their Post.

His *Czarish* Majesty having before-hand received Intelligence of the approach of this Succours, had caused seven of his largest Gallies, of a hundred foot length each, besides several lesser, and a great number of Brigantines to pass that small branch of the *Don*, which issues forth a little above the Town As the Water is very shallow in this Channel, so it was not without a great deal of difficulty, that the largest Gallies could be brought along that

way, and would in all likelihood have scarce succeeded, if the ~~Czar~~ by his Presence and Encouragement had not animated the Workmen to surpass all Difficulties, which at last they did, to the no small Astonishment of the besieged.

This Obstacle being happily surmounted, his Czariſh Maſteſty judged it of very great conſequence for his purpoſe to plant good Store of Cannon upon the little Iſland we have mentioned before, becauſe the Shoar being very low, the Cannon-ball would ſtrike even with the ſurface of the Water, beſides, that the greateſt part of the Iſle being covered with Wood, did prevent the Enemy from diſcovering the Deſign.

The ſame favourable diſpoſition of this Iſland, furniſhed the *Muſcovites* with an Opportunity of putting ſome of their lighteſt Gallies and Brigantines for a Reſerve, behind the Iſle, unperceiv'd by the Enemy, whom they intended thus to attack both in Front and Flank, as they paſſed by that way, which ſucceeded according to Expectation.

For, all theſe Precautions having been taken before the Enemies Fleet came in fight, ſome of the biggeſt *Muſcovite* Gallies, with many Brigantines were ſent out to meet them, making a Show, as if they intended to Engage the *Turkiſh* Fleet; but no ſooner were they come within Cannon-Shot of one another, but the *Muſcovites* feigning to dread the *Ottomaa* Fleet, ſuperior in Number to them, made a running

of the Muscovite Empire. 25

ning Fight, making the best of their way towards the Shoar, and posted themselves below the Island. The *Turks* perceiving the Enemy to fly before them, and not in the least forewarn'd of the rest that laid behind the Island, thought themselves, by the small number of the *Muscovite* Gallies, that appear'd in sight, assur'd of the Victory.

Flush'd with these hopes, they made all the Sail they could to fall in among the *Muscovites*, but no sooner were they come within reach of the Cannon from the Isle, but they receiv'd such a warm Salute from thence, that they saw their Gallies torn to pieces on all sides by the Enemies Cannon, in an instant, with a great Slaughter of many of their Men. But this was only the fore-runner of what was to ensue.

For his *Czarish* Majesty, who had a watchful eye on all sides, and who was sometimes upon the Isle, sometimes on board the Fleet of Reserve, that lay behind, having soon observed the Consternation the *Turks* were put in by this unexpected Salute, and willing to improve their Confusion to his Advantage, got on board in Person one of the lightest Gallies, Man'd only with forty Men, giving the Signal for the rest to follow him with all the Oars they could. Thus the Enemy found themselves surrounded on all sides by the *Muscovites*, who attack'd them with great bravery; the *Czar* himself boarding the *Turkish* Admiral,

26 *The present Condition*

miral, and being successfully, seconded by the rest, the Victory was almost as soon compleated as begun, the *Turks* being routed so entirely, that not one Gally escaped, but what was either sunk or taken; and it must be confess'd, That the *Czar* shew'd so much Conduct during the whole Action, that no more could have been expected from the Prudence and Valour of the greatest Captain of our time.

So compleat a Victory soon decided the Destiny of *Asoph*, for the Garrison, who had been Spectators of their Loss, being now bereav'd of all Hopes of Succour, demanded a capitulation. In consideration very honourable of their bravery, they had Conditions granted them, it being comprehended in one of the Articles, that before their marching out of the Place, they should surrender to the *Muscovites* a certain Officer, who had deserted his *Czarish* Majesty's Service, and discovered what he knew concerning his Designs to the Enemy. The *Czar* to recompence the Sea-Officers and others on board his Fleet for their last Service, and to give them some marks of his Liberality, ordered the Fifty Thousand Ducats, taken on board the *Turkish* Admiral, to be distributed among them.

Asoph was no sooner surrendred, but the *Czar* made it appear to all the World, that he was sufficiently sensible of what Consequence the Conquest of this Place was to his Affairs. For, the first thing he did,

of the Muscovite Empire. 27

did, was to give his Orders for the restoring the Fortifications, and bringing them with all possible Speed, to a state of Defence; and not content with this, he caused the Ancient Walls within the Fortifications, for the most part ruin'd by the Bombs, to be entirely raised, and in lieu thereof, the Foundation was laid of a new City, to extend to the Fortifications made of Earth.

These were likewise considerably augmented by the Addition of two new Bastions in the same places where we mentioned before the two obtuse Angles to have been. All the ancient Bastions were enlarged, and made regular, according to our modern Rules of Fortification; each of them being strengthened by a Half-Moon. The Ditch was defended by a good Counterscarp, with a cover'd way, from whence was carried a Line up to the top of the Hill, which overlooks the Town, where a goodly Fort was erected for the Defence of the Line, and to keep a Communication with the Place.

All these Precautions, though very considerable in themselves, yet were thought insufficient in respect of the Accomplishment of his *Czarish* Majesty's Design, who was resolv'd to render *Asoph* impregnable, as being the main Frontier place on that side of the Empire. Pursuant to this Design, the Foundation was laid of a new Fortress, just opposite to *Asop*, in the marshy Grounds,

Grounds, which was to have a Communication with that City by a bridge of thirty Arches to be built over the Marshes. This Design, of which I have seen the Model, was soon put in Execution, the City which was to be put in the Center of the place being called *St. Peter*.

The whole Body of the Fortifications consisted of six Bastions, the two first facing the River side, with a Half-Moon betwixt them. The other two Bastions lying on each side are at a small distance from the others; but the two opposite to the North, lye at a much greater distance, defended by three Half-Moons. The whole is surrounded with a double Ditch, and a cover'd way. The Ground upon which this Fortress was built, is raised to that height, as to command *Asoph*, and when the Wind blows from the South, the Marshes round about the Fortress are all under Water, so that there is but one way to approach it, to wit, by the Bridge. These Fortifications would have been more than sufficient, if His Majesty had had no other design than to defend his Frontiers, to bridle the *rim Tartars*, and to keep the neighbouring *Cosacks* inhabiting the Country near the *Don*, in awe, but this Monarch had matters of greater Consequence in view, which he knew would in a little time redound to the great benefit of the Empire. His design was to make use of this place to serve for the conveniency of carrying down the River the Commodities of the

of the Muscovite Empire. 29

the product of *Muscovy* into the *Palus Maotis*, and to transport them by the way of *Cassa*, and *Constantinople*, into *Italy*.

He wisely foresaw that by this means he might introduce, and settle Navigation in his Dominions, to the great increase of the Wealth of his Subjects, who thereby would be used to the Sea, so that in time they might render themselves redoubtable to their Enemies. But to bring this great and noble Design to Perfection, it was absolutely necessary to put the *Muscovite* Fleet into such a Condition, as to be able to coop with the *Turks* in the *Black Sea*, and to render themselves so formidable, that the Enemies might be obliged at the next Peace to allow them a free Commerce, and the Liberty of their Ports upon those Coasts, and of *Constantinople* it self.

By the restoring, and strengthening the Fortifications of *Asteph*, and laying the Foundation of the new Fortress of *St. Peter*, the present *Czar* had in view three great Points, each of which, as it tended to the great benefit of the Empire, so it was sufficient to Eternalize his Memory.

The first was the making of a convenient and safe Harbour, capable to contain a great Fleet.

The second, the joining of the two Rivers, the *Wolga*, and *Don*, by a Canal, fit to carry Ships of a great bulk.

And Lastly, the building, and equipping of fourscore Men of War, as well Frigats

30 *The present Condition*

as Gallies, with a hundred and fifty Brigantines, to make Head against the *Turks*, whenever they should attempt to dispute with him the free Commerce at Sea.

It was found quite impracticable to render *Asoph* a good Port; for, tho' the River *Don* is the most proper in the World for Shipping betwixt *Heranowitz* and *Asoph*, as being very deep, without any Islands, and its Current very smooth, being not interrupted by any Sands; but the Mouth of this River is so full of Shelves, and choak'd up with Sands, that at Ebb-Tide there is not above seven Foot Water, so that those Geographers who have described this the Entrance of this River as very convenient, and one of the most famous Ports, have imposed their own Inventions upon the World for Truth.

It was for this reason His *Czarish* Majesty ordered the Coast thereabouts to be sounded, being willing to find out a convenient Place to make a Port of, as near as possibly could be to the City of *Asoph*. When the *Turks* formerly used to send any Ships of a considerable burthen to that Town, they were obliged to unload near the Entrance of the River *Mions*, in the *Crim Tartary*, about five and twenty Leagues distance from *Asoph*, where at Low Water, it is at least fifteen or sixteen Foot deep.

The *Muscovites* founding along the same Coast, came to a certain Cape at about seven Leagues distance from the *Don*, where, at

of the Muscovite Empire 31

an Ebb Tide there was twelve Foot Water: The Coast was hereabouts very high, and steep, the Ground Sandy, but so hard, that it resembled both in Substance and Hardness a Free-Stone. To the East of the Cape there was a small Bay, and at about 10 Leagues distance from thence to the West, there was a small River, whose Current turn'd in form of a Half-Moon, round that Point of the Land. The Shoar from the bay was of an easie Ascent.

The Czar having been exactly informed concerning the convenient Scituation of this Place, order'd a Fort of Five bastions to be erected, and a City to be built somewhat below it, likewise defended by a good Fortification, betwixt which and the Bay there was a Plain, through which was to be cut the great Channel, vvhich vvvas to dissembogue near the Point of the Land, into the Sea; and in the midst of this, there vvvas to issue another less Channel towards the Bay, for the conveniency of Vessels of less burthen. I have seen the Model of the vvhole Design. The Port is to be Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Foot long, and half so broad.

Concerning the Conjunction of the Rivers, *Volga* and *Don*, vve have already mentioned before the advantageous Scituation of the Grounds betwixt the two Rivers, and the condition of the two lesser ones, vvvhich come vvithin a much nearer distance of one another, so that the vvhole design

design being founded upon very good Grounds, it will succeed in all Probability. For it is propos'd to stop the Waters of these two lesser Rivers, which are to be join'd in the Grand Canal by many Sluices, to bring them to such a height as shall be judged sufficient for the passage of Ships of a considerable burthen; there are daily above twenty Thousand Men Employed to dig the Ground, besides others vvho are to bring the vvhole to Perfection.

As to vvhat relates to the third part to wit, his Navy, it must be confes'd that the *Czar* made use in this Point of all the foresight and Prudence that could be expected from the most refin'd Politician. For, being immoveable in his Resolution of riding his Hands of the *Strelitzes*, that used to stand under the Command of the best of the *Russian* Nobility, he judg'd not vvithout Reason that at this Juncture he could not pitch upon a more seasonable and more glorious Expedient than this, to Employ them in the Service of their Country, and at the same time to take away from them all opportunities of future Revolts. Pursuant to this Resolution, he issued his Declaration, wherein he told them that the Present State of Affairs being such, as required the *Muscovites* to appear formidable at Sea, and he being fully convinced, both of their Valour, and Fidelity, he wish'd nothing more at this time, than to see them apply themselves to the Knowledge of Maritime Affairs,

to qualifie themselves for the best Commands at Sea. That for this purpose he had taken all imaginable care to provide a sufficient number of Sea Officers, Famous for their Skill in Maritime Affairs, and the managing of Sea Engagements, under whose Conduct they might be trained up in this Art, and fitted for the highest Commands. That he being resolved to try the Foundation of the present Glory of the *Russian* Monarchy upon its Naval Strength, and rendring himself redoubtable at Sea, would head them in Person, and shew them by his own Example what Footsteps to tread in. Accordingly it was resolved, that each Subject, proportionable to his Ability, should contribute to the Equipping, and maintenance of a certain number of Men of War, the chief Cities of the Empire, being likewise obliged to bear a proportion in this Tax. By this means His Majesty Equipped a good Fleet without the least impairing his ordinary Revenue, and engaged at the same time the Nobility, and chief Men in the Cities to take Cognizance of Maritime Affairs, to render themselves capable of the Sea-Service, which they were to look upon for the future, as the main and most durable Establishment of the whole Empire.

These several Projects were no sooner set on foot with the utmost Expedition, by the most admirable Vigilancy, and indefatigable Care of the *Czar*, put towards

Autumn, he set out on his Journey in order to his return to the Capital City of *Muscow*, leaving a great body of his Troops under the Command of the *Generalissimo* of his Armies, the Prince *Aleksy Simonowitz Schein*, near *Asoph*, to cover the Workmen that were Employed in bringing the Works projected thereabouts to Perfection. At his Arrival in the City of *Muscow*, he was received with all the Demonstrations of Honour due to a Conquerour, Marching along the Streets to the Castle in Triumph, with a great many Chariots loaden with the Spoils of the Enemy, and Prisoners, before him. Among the rest was to be seen the Officer, who having Deserted the *Czar's* Service, was surrendered to the *Muscovites*, pursuant to the Capitulation before *Asoph*; had his Hands tied behind him, and was soon after Executed, as a Terrour to others. It is past Expression, with what loud and joyful Acclamations this publick Entry was Solemnized by the People, who flocked thither from all Parts to adorn the Triumph of the Conquering Prince. Great were the Rejoicings that were made that Night all over the City, but the best was reserved till the Winter: when a most Glorious Firework was let off upon the Ice.

The whole was composed of several Artificial Machines, inclosed in a double Square, surrounded with Rockets, of all sorts and Sizes; which took up a great space upon the Ice.

His

of the Muscovite Empire. 35

His *Czarish* Majesty took a particular Delight to be among the Engineers, and had himself a Hand in making the greatest Machine, which was erected in the very Center of the rest. It was a double Spread Eagle, who with his left Paw darted Rockets upon an Horizontal Line at one of the Horns of a Half-Moon, which succeeded according to Wish; the Fireworks continued all the Night long, the whole Design of it being laid by His Majesty himself, and drawn with his own Hand, which he did me the Honour to shew me in Person.

Notwithstanding that the whole Empire seem'd to take Share in the Glorious Conquest of their Prince, and that nothing but Feastings, and Rejoicings were to be seen in all Parts, during the whole Winter; there remained nevertheless, a certain discontented Party among the Nobility, who being encouraged by the secret Cabals of the Princess *Sophia*, found means, in spite of her Confinement, to keep an underhand Correspondence with her, for the promoting their Designs against the *Czar's* Person. They were so well prepared for the Undertaking of any Enterprize of this Nature, that there wanted but little Fuel to kindle the Flame; They could not brook the Loss of their beloved *Sirelitzes*, whom they had always look'd upon as the Chief Supporters of their Authority; which at last made them conceive so implacable a Hatred against

gainst the Czar, that they entred into a Conspiracy against his Life. To put their Design in execution, they had brought over to their Party four Captains of the first Regiment of the *Strelitzes*; but the difficulty was, in what manner the Attempt was to be made. For they look'd upon it as impracticable, to declare openly against a Prince, who, besides that he was much beloved by the People, had at his devotion a good Number of the best Troops, Commanded by foreign Officers, who were quartered in and about the City of *Muscov*, and ready upon all Occasions to sacrifice their Lives for His Majesty. It was proposed among them, That the Czar was used to go sometimes abroad with very slender Attendance, and to appear in the Streets of *Muscov* without any considerable Retinue; this was also look'd upon as too dangerous, considering the general Love the People bore to his Person.

After many Debates, it was at last resolved, That considering the Czar, who takes share in every thing that concerns his Subjects Welfare, was wont to appear in Person, in case of any Accident of Fire, which frequently happens, and makes a most terrible Havock in the City of *Muscov*, where most of the Houses are of Wood; they look'd upon this as the most proper Opportunity to encompass their Design; wherefore it was concluded to set Fire to some Houses in the night-time, when they did not question to draw the

Czar thither, and during the Confusion, to find means to Assassinate him. The next thing to be done was, (according to their own Confession) to have joyn'd the *Donaick Cossacks* with their Party, to have released the Princess *Sophia* from her Confinement, recall'd Prince *Wassily Galizin* out of *Siberia*, and surrendered the Administration of the Government into their hands, who were also to restore the *Serelitzes* to their antient Station.

But it pleas'd Heaven to touch the hearts of two of these four Captains, that were Engaged in this Conspiracy; their Names were *Largon Gilisarof* and *Gregory Sileri*, who being struck with Remorse at the penetrating of so detestable a Fact, did throw themselves at His Majesty's feet, ingenuously confessing their Crimes, and discovering their Accomplices, that very day preceding the Night when this Tragedy was to be acted.

It was on the 1st day of *February*, in the year 1697, when His Majesty was inform'd concerning this Conspiracy formed against his Life, at the House of General *Le Fort*, where he happened to dine that Day. He appear'd very little mov'd at so surprising a piece of News, but, without any Change in his Countenance, arose from the Table, and being followed only by a few Persons, in whom he confided most, he went directly to the House of the Chief of the Conspirators, whose Name was *John Sicker*, and elevated by the Czar to the

Dignity of a Councillour of State. When His Majesty came to the House of this wicked Wretch, he commanded the rest to remain without doors; He himself entred only with three Gentlemen more, and pretending he had occasion to ask his Advice in some Matter of Moment, ordered he should follow him; But no sooner was he come into the Street but he was seized, and immediately carried to Prison, as were likewise five more that were his Accomplices in the Conspiracy; to wit, The *Boyar Alexis Sekounin*, *Fedor Puskin*, Son of the *Boyar, Marfe Puskin*, two Captains of the *Srrelitzes*, and a *Donaick Cossack*. They all confess'd their Crimes, and being condemned by all the *Boyars*, were executed on the fifth day of *March*, in the Year 1697, in the Great Market-place before the Castle. First, their Arms and Legs were cut off, then they had their Heads severed from their Bodies. Their Heads were fixed on the top of a Stone Column, erected for that purpose, and their Arms and Legs stuck upon Iron-bars round about it; the Trunks of their dead Carcasses were left in the Market-place for eight days after, till the Scent became so nauseous to the Inhabitants, that they were forced to be remov'd from thence.

It having by Confession of some of the Conspirators been made apparent, That the *Boyar, Ivan Miloslaski* was the Chief Head of the Rebellion which hapned in the year 1682, immediately after his present Czar-

of the Muscovite Empire. 39

Majesty's Accession to the Crown, his Body was disinterred, which being found very near intire, without any considerable decay (tho' it had lain under ground near twelve Years,) several Gibbets were erected, on which were hung the Quarters of his Carcasses, which were torn to pieces in an instance by the enraged Multitude.

These several In-lets contrived and carried on against his Czarish Majesty's Person and Life, are so many instances, to convince the World, how dangerous it is for a Prince to change the antient form of a Government, it being unquestionable, that thereby he must needs draw upon himself the implacable Hatred of that Party, who are Sufferers by that Change. But it must also be confess'd, that nothing can be more glorious for a Prince, than to promote the publick Welfare, at the peril of his own Life; which may without the least Contradiction to truth, be applyed to the present Czar *Peter Alexiowitz*, who had no other Aim in removing the antient establish'd Guards of the *Strelitzes*, from their Station, than the publick Tranquility; knowing this arrogant and violent body of Troops, to have been the Source of the many Revolts and Troubles, that have harassed the *Russian Empire* in our Age.

His Majesty was graciously pleased to pardon such of the Conspirators, as were not so deeply engaged in the Design against his Life, being now resolved to

The present Condition

begin his Journey into *Germany*, with all imaginable Expedition. It is to be taken Notice of, That this Prince had for a considerable time before premeditated this Journey, but had only suspended his Resolution till he saw the Success of the Siege of *Asoph*, not questioning but that he should then be for some time upon the defensive, till the beforementioned Fortifications, and other Works, which he had projected, could be brought to perfection.

He was sufficiently sensible, That, considering, the present State of his Empire was founded, upon the service of his foreign Officers, and a good Naval strength, whereby he might appear formidable in the black Sea, nothing could conduce more towards the promoting and improving so great a Design, than if he should go in person to visit some of the Courts of *Europe*, and especially to make some considerable stay in *Holland*. But, as it was absolutely necessary to appear with a most splendid Equipage and Attendance, befitting the Greatness of so Potent a Prince, if he would be acknowledged in these Parts through which he was to pass for the Grand Czar of *Muscovy*; and as he wisely foresaw that his Rank would not be a great Obstacle to his Design, which was to see and penetrate by degrees in such Matters, as he was desirous to be informed of himself, so he judged it most convenient for his pre-

of the Muscovite Empire. 41

present Purpose, to go in the Quality of a private Gentleman, under the protection of that most solemn Embassy, which he then resolv'd to send, and has since appear'd with so much splendor in several Courts of *Europe*.

Pursuant to this Resolution, he appointed for his Ambassadors, My Lord *Le Fort*, General of His Majesty's Armies, and of the first Regiments of his Guards, Admiral of his Fleet, and Viceroy of *Alovogorod*. My Lord *Fedor Alexiovitz Gollan*, Viceroy of *Siberia*, and My Lord *Procofet Bodgnanovitz Wolnitzin*, Lord high Chancellor of the Empire.

His Majesty by giving the first Rank in this Embassy to the General *Le Fort*, gave the most ample Demonstration that could be, in what Esteem the said General was with him, in consideration of his pass'd Great and Signal Services; and to let the World know, what recompences he was ready to bestow upon all (the Foreigners) that deserv'd well of him, since from a simple Captain, he was mounted in a short time, to the highest Dignities in the Empire, notwithstanding the difference of his Religion.

The second Ambassador, is likewise a person of Great Wisdom, and most excellent parts, well vers'd in publick Negotiations, having been sent twice by the Czar as his Ambassador Extraordinary into *China*; and it was he that Concluded the last Peace betwixt *Muscovy* and that Em-

42 *The present Condition*

Empire. He is in great Esteem with the Grand Czar.

The third Ambassadour has been frequently employed with good Success in those Transactions the *Muscovites* have been engaged in with the *Ottoman Part*.

The Czar, before his departure out of *Muscovy*, found means under a plausible pretext, to send abroad such as lay under the least Suspicion of raising any Disturbances in his Absence. It is to be observed, that for several years before the Czar had sent many of his Subjects, of all Sorts and Qualities, in whom he observed some extraordinary Qualifications, a travelling in foreign Parts at his Charges, the better to instruct themselves in several Arts and Sciences, and to qualify themselves for the Service of their Country, after their return. He made use of the self-same pretext to rid his hands at this time, of those whom he suspected to be against his Interest, and inclinable to foment any ill Designs against him, in his Absence; For some of them were sent abroad a travelling in far distant Countries, before his departure, the others who lay under more Suspicion than the rest, were ordered to follow the Embassy.

The Administration of the Government during his Majesties Absence, was committed to the Care of the three Princes, *Eoff Kerilovitz Alariskin, Procerofskoi,* and *Boris Alexiovitz Gallizin.*

The

of the Muscovite Empire. 43

The first is Uncle to His present Majesty, being the Brother of the Empress Dowager, his Mother. He is Chief Minister of State.

The second is the Lord Treasurer of the Empire, a person advanced in years, and much esteemed for his great Ability.

The third is his Majesty's Favourite, being likewise Minister of State, besides many other places, which are of a great yearly Value to him. He is a Nephew of the unfortunate Prince *Wassily Galitsin*, Chief Minister of State, but since banished into *Siberia*.

His Majesty gave them a most particular Charge of the Prince his only Son, being then scarce nine years of Age; This young Prince is of a very vigorous Constitution; Robust, Tall, and well Shaped, having a great resemblance, as well in his Face as his Natural disposition, to the Czar his Father.

General *Gowrdon* had orders to Encamp with twenty Thousand of the best Troops near the City of *Muscov*, to keep a watchful eye, and to be in readiness upon any occasion that should offer. This General is a *Scotchman* by Extraction, who entered into the Service of the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, his present Czarish Majesty's Father. He has given eminent Proofs of his Valour and Ability upon several Occasions, which has deservedly acquired him the Esteem both of his Czarish Majesty, and the whole *Muscovite* Nation,

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notwithstanding he is a Roman Catholick.

Things being thus disposed, His Majesty left the City of *Muscom*, Incognito, with his Ambassadors, who were attended by a most numerous and magnificent Train. They took the way of *Plescom*, passed through the Frontiers of *Livonia*, *Courland* and *Samogitia*, and so arrived safely at *Coningsburgh*, the Capital City of the *Ducal Prussia*, where they were received with a great deal of Splendor by his Electoral Highness of *Brandenburgh*. In this City, his Czarish Majesty received the Post-news, by a Messenger sent for that purpose, That the Elector of *Saxony* was elected King of *Poland*; and, that the Cardinal Primat, had protested against the said Election, under pretext, That the Prince of *Conti* was legally chosen. Upon which, immediate orders were dispatched to the *Muscovite* Ambassador, then residing in *Poland*, to maintain the Rights of Election made to the Elector of *Saxony*, and to assure him, in behalf of his Czarish Majesty, That he had sixty thousand Men in readiness, at his Service, in order to maintain his just Pretensions to the Crown of *Poland*; and, That orders were already sent into *Muscovy*, for the Troops to advance from *Smolensko*, towards the Frontiers of *Lithuania*, to retain that Great Dutchy in his *Polish* Majesty's Devotion. It is without all question, the fear of so Powerful an Assistance, had

of the Muscovite Empire. 45

had no small Influence over many of the Poles, in the contrary Interest; it being most evident, that when the Prince of Conti appear'd in person near *Dantzick*, those of *Prussia*, though not averse to that Prince's Interest, durst not declare for him.

After some stay at *Coningsburgh*, his Czarish Majesty continued his Journey towards *Berlix*, the Ordinary Residence of his Electoral Highness of *Brandenburgh*, where he was received with all the possible demonstrations of Honour and Esteem due to a Prince of so Eminent a Rank. It is most certain, That the Grand Czar was so well satisfied with his Reception here, and with the Great Qualifications he discovered in his present Electoral Highness, That he has declared several times since, that as soon as the young Prince his Son should be fit to Travel, he would send him to the Court of *Berlix*, to tarry there for some considerable Time.

No sooner had their High and Mightinesses, the States General of the United Provinces received advice, that this solemn Embassy was on their way towards their Frontiers, but they sent some Deputies, who were to receive their Excellencies in the name of the States General upon the Frontiers; and orders were given not only to despay them at the Charge of the State, but to welcome them with considerable Presents, and by the

46 *The present Condition*

the discharge of the great Cannon of all the great Towns through which they passed; their High and Mightinesses being willing upon so extraordinary an Occasion, to eternalize the Memory of the Honour they were going to receive by so solemn an Embassy, the most glorious that ever was seen, in respect of Personal Appearance of so great a Monarch, with whom they were Engaged in a most strict Tye of Friendship and Commerce. After they had travelled some Leagues in the Territories of the United Provinces, his Czarish Majesty left the Embassy, that he might with the more speed reach the City of *Amsteldam*; and that by travelling thus in Disguise, he might with the more freedom, and unperceived, take a view of every thing he thought worth his Curiosity. Accordingly he came to *Amsteldam*, accompanied only by two or three Gentlemen, so disguised, as not to be known by any body, where he lodged, at a Common-Inn for one night only. The next day he went to *Sordam*, a large Town on the opposite side of the River of *Amsteldam*, and about two Leagues distant, this place being most famous for the great number of Ship-Wrights and others, who are there employed continually in building of Ships.

His Majesty immediately after his arrival there, took up with a private lodgings at a *Burgher's* House, which lay much out of the way, his aim being to keep him-
self

of the Muscovite Empire. 47

self from being discovered, as much as possible could be. His Chief and first employment in this place, was to inform himself in person from the Work-mens own Mouths, and to be an Eye-witness in what manner they built their Ships: He bought a small Yacht of about twenty five or thirty Foot long, which he took a particular Pleasure to steer himself, and to Sail in the Company only of those three Gentlemen, that attended him up and down the River of *Amsteldam* (called the *Tey*) where his greatest delight was, to make his own Observations, and to feed his eyes with that most beautiful Prospect of that vast number of Ships, which not unlike a Forrest, lie close together in the Road of that City.

But it was not many days before he was robbed of the Satisfaction of passing away his time thus undiscovered. For a certain Lock-Smith, who had lived a few years before in the City of *Muscovy*, happening to take particular Notice of him one day, as he passed by, knew him first; and having told some of his Comrades, the inhabitants flock'd in such Numbers about him, when he appear'd abroad, that being tired with the Crowd, he resolv'd to leave *Sordam*, sooner than he intended at first.

This News being come to the Ears of the Merchants of *Amsteldam*, Trading to *Muscovy*, some of whom had the Honour
to

to know His Majesty, they immediately went in a Body to pay him all imaginable Respect, and to pray him to honour them with his Presence in the City of *Amsteldam*; where he arrived from *Sordam* some days before the Ambassadors, who had received Orders to tarry for some time there, before they went to the *Hague*, in order to be Admitted to the publick Audience of Their High and Mightinesses.

In the mean while the Magistrates of *Amsteldam* took effectual Care to provide every thing for the Magnificent Reception of the said Embassy, great store of Cannon being planted upon the Bastions, facing the River *Amstrell*, which way the Ambassadors were to come. All the young Men of the City mounted on Horseback, with very splendid Equipages and those of the best Rank and Quality, went to meet him in their Coaches. The Magistrates deputed some of their Members to Compliment Their Excellencies at their Landing, which was about a quarter of a League without the City, whither they were conducted in the Yatchs of the State, and received with a Discharge of all the Cannon round the Ramparts.

The three Ambassadors were conducted by the Deputies into the Coach of one of the Chief Magistrates of the City; the Deputies took their Places in the second; and the rest of the Coaches were taken up by the Gentlemen of the Embassy, among whom, as it was reported, was His Czari-
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of the Muscovite Empire. 49

ish Majesty. But first of all, rid the be-
forementioned Gentlemen on Horseback,
who leading the Van, were followed by
the Trumpets of the State, and these by
some *Tartars*, Armed with Bows, and
some *Muscovites* on Horseback. After these
marched on foot twenty Pages belonging
to Their Excellencies the Ambassadors;
very richly Clad, their Coats being of
Scarlet Cloth, covered all over with very
rich Gold and Silver Galloons. These
went immediately before the Coach, where-
in sat the three Ambassadors, Guarded
on each side by twelve Tall and lusty
Fellows, Cloath'd in a *Slavonian* Dress, car-
rying each a Silver Ax in their hands, and
Cimmetars with Silver Hilt on their Sides.
They had red Cloaks over their *Cassacques*,
trimm'd on both sides with large Silver
Buttons, and large Plated Loops; all which
together, made a very Glorious and Mag-
nificent Show. These Coaches were fol-
lowed by a great many Footmen, like-
wise clad in red Scarlet Cloath, trim-
med with Silver Galloons. His Excellen-
cy the General *Le Fort*, appeared that day
in an *European* Habit, and the other two
Ambassadors, in a *Muscovite* Dress, but
their Apparel was extreamly Rich. Thus
they pass'd in very good order through
the Chiefest Streets of *Amsteldam*, to the
Lodgings prepared for them, where stood
a Company of City Trained-bands in
Arms, to render their Reception the more
Magnificent; All the Streets through which
E they

they passed, were crowded with an infinite number of People, who were flock'd to the City to be Spectators of the most solemn Entrance that had been seen there for many years before; and for several days after, their Excellencies were treated with all the magnificence imaginable, at the Charge of the City of *Amsterdam*; all which, though it amounted to a considerable Summ, nevertheless the Magistrates being willing upon this Occasion to give the most ample Demonstrations that possible could be, of their Esteem and Respect for His Czarish Majesty's person, caused a great Fire-Work to be prepared, representing a Triumphal-Arch, in Honour of his Majesty.

It was erected upon the River *Amstel* (which had communicated its Name to the Famous City of *Amsterdam*) in a place where it might be seen at a great distance, being of great height, and having four Fronts alike to the four principal Corners of the World; the whole Fabrick being of the *Corinthian Order*, adorned with the Arms of His Czarish Majesty, with Tritons, Vessels, and many other Embellishments. The whole Machine was built upon many Flat-bottom'd Vessels, join'd close together, which being covered all over with a Linnen Painted Cloth, the bottom upon which the Fabrick was founded, represented at a distance, a small Island.

This Fire-work being too remote from their Excellencies Lodgings, to be seen there

of the Muscovite Empire. 51

there in its full Perfection, the Magistrates intreated them to go with them to a noted Tavern of *Amsteldam*, called the *Doclan*, where they had the advantage of being Spectators of the Success of the Fire-works, to their entire Satisfaction, and were regaled with a most magnificent Collation. His Majesty being graciously pleased to appear in person at this Feast; it was then the first time, that I had the opportunity of taking a full view of him, as well as others, at leisure. He is a very Tall and Lusty Person, Well set, with very good Features in his Face, and, though there is a great deal Vivacity in his Eyes, (which are Black and Sprightly) as well as Activity in his whole Air, he has certain Marks of a Sweet Disposition in his Physiognomy. He is very affable in Conversation, giving frequent opportunities to be entertained with any thing that is Curious.

Some Hours after it was Dark, the Fire-works began to Play, with extraordinary Success, to the Admiration of all the Spectators in General, and His Czarish Majesty in partiulcar, who could not sufficiently speak praise in of it, and declare publicly the Satisfaction he had taken in the whole Entertainment. The Concourse of People was so great at this publick Rejoycing, that by the Throng, some of the Iron Rails of the Bridge of the *Amstel* being broke down, a great many of those upon the Bridge, fell in-

to the River, some of whom were drowned, the rest narrowly escaping with Life, by the help of some Boats that were near at hand.

But the Deputies of the Admiralty of *Amsterdam*, being sensible that they could give no greater satisfaction to the *Czar*, than in what related to the knowledge of Naval Affairs, took effectual care to shew his Majesty all their Store-Houses, belonging to the Building and Equipping of their Men of War.

I have it from good Hands, that these Gentlemen who were deputed to attend him thither, were extreemly surpris'd to see him with so much eagerness enquire after every thing, that had the least relation to these Affairs; and with how much Skill and Judgment he would talk and argue concerning these Matters, into which (as they were perswaded before) he had but a slender Insight.

Some Days after, his Majesty took a Progress to *Wresch*, where he had an Interview with his *Britanick* Majesty; this being the first time these two Great Princes, Eminent for their Virtue and Bravery, met. They Discourst for several Hours together, and parted from one another with all the marks of a mutual high Esteem.

The Ambassadors stay'd near two Months at *Amsterdam*, before they went to the *Hague*, in order to their Audience: For his *Czarish* Majesty being resolv'd that they should make their Appearance there with all

of the Muscovite Empire. 53

all the Splendor imaginable, Order'd that the Number of their Domesticks should be considerably augmented, that they should be all new Cloathed, and Richer than before. They had also an addition to their Equipage three of the richest Coaches that could be made, with so many Sets of very fine Horses.

Every thing being got ready for their Departure to the *Hague*, they set out on their Journey, carrying along with them good store of Sables and other rich Furs, to be Presented to their High and Mightinesses from the *Czar* their Master, pursuant to the Custom of most Eastern Nations.

Their Excellencies were receiv'd at the *Hague*, with all the marks of Honour and Respect due to their High Character, and the Day for their publick Audience being appointed, his *Cesarist* Majesty followed in Person in Disguise, wearing a plain blew Coat, a large white Perriwig, and white Feather; and being perfectly well acquainted both with the Person, and extraordinary Merits of the *Sieur Wassen* (who is this Year Burgo-Master of *Amsteldam*) he borrowed his Coach, and desired him to accompany him thither, which was performed with so much dexterity and secrecy by the said *Sieur de Wassen*, that his Majesty was not discover'd by any body living.

It was in the Month of *September* of the last Year, when there was the greatest show of Forreign Ambassadors, that ever was seen at the *Hague*, occasion'd by the Negotiation of Peace at *Reswick*, whither most Courts of *Europe* had sent their Plenipotentiaries, who all striving to outview one another in Magnificence, it was no ~~calie~~ matter to add any thing to the Splendor of their Equipages: Yet his *Czarish* Majesty being sensible that the Eyes of the World, would in a most peculiar manner be fixed upon his Embassy; and being invired by a most commendable Emulation; to maintain upon this, as well as all other occasions the Glory and Lustre of his Eminent Station in the World, as claiming the Title of an Emperor, and bearing the Imperial Arms, he was fully resolv'd that this most Solemn Embassy, honour'd by his Presence, should bear the marks of, and be answerable to his Grandeur.

In effect, according to the Testimony of all that were Spectators of this Solemn Audience, every thing was manag'd with so much Order, Majesty and Gravity, and with so much Magnificence, that nothing could be added to the Lustre of this Solemnity, which in all Respects was suitable to his Majesty's Design and Grandeur.

It is confess'd by all hands, that never any Ambassador appear'd in a more Splendid Attire, than the General *Le Fort*, the first Ambassador did that Day; he was Glad after the *Muscovite* Fashion, in a long Robe

of the Muscovite Empire. 55

Robe of Cloth of Gold, Lin'd with the most precious Sables that ever were seen. This Robe, as well as the Vest which he wore under it, was cover'd before with Diamonds of an inestimable Value, and upon his Bonnet there appear'd a large Jewel of Diamonds in the shape of a Heron's Feather, with such lustre as dazzled the Eyes of the Beholders. He harangued their High and Mightinesses in the *Russian* Tongue, with an Air altogether Majestick, suitable to the Character he bore upon so Solemn an Occasion. The two other Ambassadors, who appear'd likewise in very Rich Apparel, made also their Compliments to their High and Mightinesses with a Majestick Gravity. But that which added the greatest Lustre to this Audience, was, that all the Ambassadors of most Princes in *Europe*, honour'd these Men with their Presence, and his *Czarish* Majesty had the satisfaction to be an Eye Witness of all what pass'd, from a Closer which had a Window opening into the Audience Room, without being perceived by any body, and returned the next day privately to *Amsterdam*, extremely well pleased with his Journey. Neither did their Excellencies make any long stay at the *Hague*, they having no other Matters to propose to the States, but the confirmation of former Treaties.

It is agreed on all hands, that the principal Motive of this *Embassy* was, that under the specious Pretence of this Publick Solemnity, the *Czar* might with the more

conveniency pass *Incognito*, through such Places as he intended to visit; his particular aim in respect to his Journey into *Holland*, being to have the opportunity of being undiscover'd at *Amsteldam*, to take with the more conveniency a full view of such Matters as related to Maritime Affairs, and without any disturbance, to take Pleasure in the Sea-Service into his Pay, and at the same time to supply himself with such Necessaries, as was requisite for the carrying on his Grand Design.

This sufficiently appear'd after his return from the *Hague*, by his Request to the Magistrates of *Amsteldam*, to wit, to chuse private Lodgings for himself, and a few Gentlemen of his Retinue at one end of the City. It must be confess'd the Lodgings were but very indifferent, in respect of the Quality of the Person that was to Inhabit them; but in regard of their Situation, they were in all Points agreeable to his Majesty's Intention, they being just adjoyning to the *East-India* House, which lying near a convenient Road for Ships, there was the most agreeable prospect that could be to the Water-side, of all what pass'd to or from *Amsteldam*.

No sooner had his Majesty taken possession of these small Lodgings, but he applied all his Thoughts to the knowledge of two Things; The first was to be instructed in all Particulars, which had any relation to the Building and Equipping of Ships; The second, to learn the manner of Bombarding

of the Muscovite Empire. 57

warding Places by Sea, which being a thing he was desirous to be inform'd of, he spared no pains to attain to. But as his Genius was always bent to the Mathematicks, and as he had been Instructed most particularly in the Mechanick part of it, which contains the Fundamental Principles of both. It was yet long before he made himself Master of these Mysterious Arts; especially, since his desire was such, as not to rest satisfy'd with being a looker on, but would lay himself a hand to the Work sometimes, with a great deal of Pleasure, and finish a piece with his own Hands, which he did with so much dexterity, that one would have sworn he had been accustomed long ago, to handle the Axe and the Hammer. I have myself seen two pieces of his own Handy-Work; one was a small Frigate of three or four Foot long, the other a little Wind-Mill.

What else can be gathered from all this, but that his Conduct in relation to these Matters, is founded upon most profound Reasons of State? It seems evident to me, that the sole motive of it, is the Glory and Greatness of the *Russian Monarchy*; and that by the eagerness he shews upon this occasion, of advancing the Naval Strength of his Empire, he intends to give the most evident demonstrations he is able, (to his Nobility and People) that on its due Establishment, depends the chief Wellfare of the Realm; and that by divesting himself thus of his Royal Dignity for a time,
and

and applying himself in Person to the Building of Ships, he intends to serve for an Example to invite them to follow his Footsteps. He is too sensible that the *Muscovites* are naturally inclin'd to Pride and Laziness, and he look'd upon it as the best means to correct those Vices in them, and hinder their further progress among them, if he by his own Example did encourage them to Labour and Industry.

At his spare Hours, his greatest delight used to be, to take a view of any thing that was curious, or worth his observation in private Persons Houses, where he lay'd hold of all opportunities, to enter into a familiar Discourse with them, in so obliging a manner, that the *Hollanders*, who are extremely taken with familiar Conversation, were charm'd with his franck Behaviour; which had this effect upon them, that it is almost incredible, how many voluntarily offer'd themselves to serve him; I having been an Eye-witness my self, that a great number of able and well deserving Persons could not be admitted into the Service, because the intended Levies were completed in much less time than was expected.

Nor long after the Ambassadors return from the *Hague*, his Majesty receiv'd an Express from *Muscovy*, with the agreeable News of a Battle, fought betwixt the *Muscovites*, under the Command of the Prince *Schem*, and the *Tartars* near *Asoph*. The *Cham* of the *Crim Tartary*, had in the beginning of the Spring, caused a great num-

of the Muscovite Empire. 59

her of *Crim Tartars* to pass in many small Bodies, and at different times thro' *Cassa*, in order to join them with the *Tartars* of *Circassia*; and especially those Inhabiting near the River *Cubance*. Knowing that the *Muscovite* Army was divided into several Bodies, the better to cover the Workmen, that were employed in several Places, in completing the before-mentioned Fortifications, he look'd upon this as a fit opportunity to surprize them unawares: For which purpose, he order'd the *Tartars* Commanded by *Sultan Galga*, to advance with great and speedy Marches toward the Enemy. But the *Muscovite* General *Schein*, having receiv'd Intelligence of their approach, had just so much leisure given him, as to draw together his Troops in an advantageous place, where he resolv'd to engage the Enemy. These perceiving themselves superiour in number to the *Muscovites*, and being encourag'd by that pretended fear of the *Muscovite* Army, which did not move from their Post, fell with great fury upon them, and were received with great bravery by the *Russians*, who were contented to defend themselves in their Post, till their General perceiving the first heat of the *Tartars* spent, attack'd them very briskly, put them first into Confusion, and soon after to the Rout, with a great Slaughter on the Enemies side, whom they pursued to the River *Hagalinek*, where many of them were drowned. This River runs through *Circassia*, about two Leagues distant

distant from *Asoph*. Our Maps put this River to the North on the other side of the River *Don*, above thirty Leagues from *Asoph*.

Their Excellencies the *Muscovite* Ambassadors made publick Rejoycings upon this Occasion, and invited the Magistrates and other Persons of Quality to a Magnificent Entertainment, where they were diverted with Dancing, Musick, Fireworks, and all sorts of other Divertisements. His *Czarish* Majesty was pleas'd to appear there in Person, and in so pleasant a Humour, that all the Gueſts were extreemly satisfy'd with his Goodness, and at parting, made all the most sincere Protestations to his Majesty, that they should keep in everlasting Remembrance, the extraordinary Favour he had been pleas'd to bestow upon them, in honouring them with his Presence.

Towards the beginning of the Winter, this Victory was Seconded by the News of another Advantage, obtain'd near the River *Sonyffenes*. For the *Crim Tartars* in conjunction with those of *Budziack* and *Oczakow* having besieged *Kasikermeen*, had carried on their Trenches to the very Counterſcarp, and at the same time made themselves Masters of the Adjacent small Isle of *Towam*. But a Body of *Muscovites* having joined the *Cossacks* inhabiting those Frontiers, came time enough to the relief of the Place, forcing the *Tartars* to abandon the Siege and the Isle, with a considerable loss on their side. Upon which his Majesty gave

of the Muscovite Empire. 61

gave Orders, that the said Island should be strengthened by some regular Fortifications.

The same Express brought likewise the News, that the new Harbour about seven Leagues from *Asoph*, (of which mention has been made before) was brought to perfection, the Place being already inhabited by Ten Thousand *Muscovites*, his Majesty having expressly forbidden any Foreign Nation to settle there. He gave the Name of *Serubchina Tuba* to this City. In a little time after, Advice was also brought his Majesty, that a great number of the *Circassian Tartars* had voluntarily submitted to his Obedience; and thereupon being joined by some *Muscovite* Troops, they had extended their Conquests into the *Crim Tartary*, to the River *Mions*, about five and twenty Leagues distant from *Asoph*, where the *Turks* formerly used to unload their Ships bound to that Place; and that the *Muscovites* were then busie in building a strong Fort near the Mouth of that River, thereby to make themselves Masters of, and to command that Road.

The Czar having now taken a resolution to pass over into *England*, before his departure out of this Country, gave notice of his Intention to his *Britannick* Majesty, who immediately sent some Yachts and light Friggots to conduct him thither. He Embarked with an Attendance only of Twelve or Fifteen Persons, ordering his Ambassadors to stay behind at *Amsterdam*,
and

62 *The present Condition*

and to buy up good store of Artillery and Ammunition: And being happily arriv'd in *England*, he was received there with all the Honour and Respect due to so Great a Prince; His *Britannick* Majesty offering him for his Residence the Royal Palace, call'd *Sommerſet Houſe*, (which is very Remarkable for its pleasant Scituation on the River *Thames*;) and a Guard to attend his Person; but the *Czar* perſiſting in his Reſolution to paſs his time in *England*, Incognito, he reſuſed to accept of the King of *England*'s Offers.

After he had received the Compliments from his Majesty and the Royal Family, and return'd the ſame to them, he ſpent ſome time in taking a view of the Two Houſes of Parliament, and what elſe was worth his Obſervation at Court; and then retir'd at ſome diſtance from the City of *London*, for the conveniency of the Proſpect upon the River, from whence he might obſerve the Workmen, that were Employed thereabouts in the building of Ships. He ſtay'd above Two Months in *England*, during which time, he Employ'd moſt of his ſpare Hours, in viewing all what was Curious or Remarkable, eſpecially among the beſt Artiſts.

Some *London* Merchants having propoſed to his *Czarish* Majesty, the Eſtabliſhment of a new Commerce of *Tobacco*, to be Transported only by them into *Muſcovy*, and the other Countries under his Majesty's Obedience, he ſent for *Fedor Alexiovitz Gallavin*,

of the Muscovite Empire. 63

Gallavin, his Second Ambassador, to Treat with them concerning this Point at *London*. The Treaty was brought to a good issue, to the satisfaction of both Parties; and it has been computed, that the *Czar's* Yearly Customs arising from that Commodity, will amount to above a Million of *Luxes*.

But what is worth our particular Observation in this Voyage into *England*, and which most of all discovers the main Design of his *Czarish* Majesty, is, his Progress to *Portsmouth*, to be a Spectator of a Sea Engagement betwixt two *English* Squadrons, near that Port. I had forgot to tell you before, that the *Hollanders* did Entertain him near *Amsterdam*, with such another Mock-fight, where a great many Yachts were drawn up in different Lines, to shew to his *Czarish* Majesty the manner of Engaging one another, and Retiring after an Engagement at Sea.

His *Czarish* Majesty having been presented by the King of *England*, with a very fine Yatch, Richly Guilt, carrying Thirty Pieces of Cannon, and one of the nimblest for Sailing in the whole Kingdom; he sent her to *Archangle*, and he himself return'd, notwithstanding the badness of the Season into, *Holland*.

In the mean while that their Excellencies were gone back to the *Hague*, in Order to take their Audience of Leave from their High and Mightinesses, the Magistrates of *Amsterdam*, being sensible, that immediately after their Return, the *Czar* would set forward

forward on his Journey to *Vienna*, made great preparations to signalize their Zeal for his Majesty by some fresh marks of Honour: But he no sooner had notice of their Design, but he sent to desire them to desist, being willing to leave their City without noise, and undiscover'd, after a Thousand Testimonies of their Esteem and Friendship to his Person, received both from the Magistrates and other Inhabitants, during the Six Months he had stay'd among them.

He was just upon his departure, when he was surpris'd by the unwelcome News, that there had been a Mutiny near the City of *Muscov*, among some Remainers of the *Strelitzes*, but that General *Gourdon* had soon dispersed them, and taken most of their Ringleaders Prisoners; who as they have thereby hasten'd the entire Ruine of their Party, so they have brought themselves to a miserable End, having received since that time the due Rewards of their Treachery. For a great Number of them were Hang'd on Gibbets, and many of the Nobility had their Heads cut off.

You cannot be ignorant of what has pass'd since his *Czarish* Majesty's Departure out of *Holland*; with what Honour and Respect this Great Prince was received at the Imperial Court of *Vienna*; with what extraordinary Splendour and Magnificence his Embassy appear'd there; as likewise, what oblig'd his Majesty to return on a sudden into *Muscovy*. It is also sufficient-
ly

It is known to you, that he left *Procofet* *Wolnizyn*, as his Ambassadour and Plenipotentiary for the Negotiation of Peace to be set on foot upon the Frontiers of *Hungary*, betwixt the Confederate Princes and the *Ottoman* Port.

His Majesty took the way of *Poland* in his Return homewards, where he had an interview, not far from *Lemberg*, with his present *Polish* Majesty, who assured him, That he was resolved to continue the War against the *Turks*, unless Peace might be obtained upon very good Conditions, and especially by the Surrender of *Caminieck* to the *Poles*.

But whatever the issue of this Treaty may be, you will easily grant me, if you will be pleased to reflect seriously upon what I have told you before, That, supposing the Czar of *Muscovy* should not be comprehended in the said Peace, he is alone capable of waging War against the *Turks*, and not without hopes of Success on his side. For his Frontiers being so well provided and strengthened with good Fortifications on that side, where the *Turks* must attack him; he has no more to do, than to be upon the Defensive by Land, and in the mean while to attack them briskly at Sea. And it is more than probable, That this is the Grand Design of this Prince, who seems to have taken such sure Measures in respect to the Establishment of his Maritime Affairs, that there is all the Reason in the World to

F

be-

believe, that he will always Triumph over the *Turks* at Sea, who never did any thing Memorable in that Service; and who according to all outward Appearance, are less in a Condition than ever to, signalize themselves upon the Watery Element at a time, when their Empire appears in a declining State.

I will leave it to your own Judgment, whether it would not shake the very Foundation of the *Turkish* Monarchy, considering its present tottering Condition, if the *Muscovites* should chase the *Turks* out of the *Black-Sea*, and make themselves Masters of their Ports on these Coasts, which from the City of *Cassa*, as far as to the mouth of the *Borysthenes*, must thereby be exposed to the Mercy of the *Muscovites*? And it is not improbable that *Constantinople* it self might be hardly put to it, or at least run the Hazzard of being laid in Ashes by a Bombardment. What would in such a case, become of the *Crim-Tartary*, which being already enclosed on all sides by a good number of strong Fortelles, must of necessity fall, without making one Blow, into the hands of the *Muscovites*, if all Commerce and Correspondence betwixt the *Peninsula* and *Constantinople* should be cut off, by the *Muscovites* becoming Masters of the *Black-Sea*?

Besides,

of the Muscovite Empire. 67

Besides, it is to be considered, that as Places are attack'd now a-days, they have only *Precop* and *Cassa*, which are in a Condition to make some slender Defence.

But, Sir, being unwilling to tire your Patience with too long a Letter, I will come to a Conclusion; I must only repeat to you once more, what I have insist-
ed before, That it was the greatest Over-sight the *Turks* could be guilty of, not to take all the imaginable Precautions against the *Muscovites* becoming Masters of *Asoph*, who thereby have opened themselves the way into the *Black-Sea*, over which the *Ottoman* Empire always claim'd the Sovereignty in a most peculiar manner. To make some Amends for so unpardonable an Error, the most likely means they have left, seems to be, to conclude an everlasting Peace with the *Muscovites*, thereby to lull them asleep, that they may not lay hold of this Opportunity of rendring themselves redoubtable in the *Black-Sea*.

The *Ottoman* Port might thus reap a considerable Advantage by the Commerce with *Muscovy*, by establishing certain Duties to be paid for the passage of Ships through the Channel leading to *Constantinople*, in the same manner as it is practis'd in *Denmark*, where the King of that Name, receives Customs of the Ships that pass and repass the *Sound*, in their going to, and coming from the *Baltick*.

This appears to me the only most probable Means, to plunge them out of that Misfortune which they have drawn upon themselves by their own Neglect, it being allow'd by all that have any insight into the present State of Affairs in *Muscovy*, That the present Czar *Peter Alexionitz*, has taken a firm Resolution, not to rest satisfied, till he has opened this Passage in order to establish a free Commerce with foreign Nations, and to encourage them to come into his Ports near the *Ras Alcoris*.

This, Sir, is the present Condition of the *Russian* Empire, which was formerly look'd upon as most barbarous, but which now bids fair for the Priority with any in *Europe*, by reason of the Encrease of its Commerce with most Nations of the World, by the indefatigable Vigilancy of their present Monarch, who being scarce 28 Years of Age; what is it that may not be expected from so Great a Prince, if God pleases to bless him with a long Life?

For the *Volga* is above five hundred Leagues (to reckon from its first Spring) to the Canal, by which it is join'd with the River *Dow*, and this River from thence to the City of *Asoph*, four hundred Leagues more, fit for Ships of good Burthen, and from the Canal of Communication betwixt these two noble Rivers, there is two hundred Leagues distance to *Asoph* upon a straight Line, all extream good Grounds,

of the Muscovite Empire. 69

Grounds; *Asoph* and *Astracan* being situate under the most happy Climate in the World. The Western side of the River *Volga* is very well inhabited already, and there is no great question, but that the Conveniency of Commerce, and Plenty of the Country, will soon invite some of the Neighbouring vagabond *Tartars* to follow the footsteps of other more civiliz'd Nations, when once they are made sensible of the Benefit of an Industrious and settled Life. This is sufficiently verified by the Example of many of the *Asiatick Tartars*, who have by degrees abandoned their vagabond and idle Life, and follow'd their Prince into *China*, where they are become Wealthy by their Traffick; the like may be said of many of the *Crim-Tartars*, those of *Astracan*, *Siberia*, *Dauria*, and other parts subject to the *Muscovites*.

If we cast our eyes upon that Part of *Muscovy*, whereabouts the Port of *Arch-angel* is, and consider, that not above an Age ago these Patts were as little inhabited as any of *Muscovy*, being low Grounds, and situate under a very cold Climate; But since the Establishment of Commerce in this Harbour, the Country all whereabouts is very well stock'd with Inhabitants, and many goodly Towns and Villages.

In the Southern Parts of *Muscovy*, the Cities of *Vologda*, *Ieressa*, *Rostof*, *Perebogslan*, and others owe all their Encrease of Wealth

The present Condition

Wealth to traffick. Add to this the advantage of Commerce betwixt the *Indies*, *Persia* and *Muscovy*, by the way of the *Caspian* Lake or Sea; all which Commodities may for the future be transported by the newly projected Canal betwixt the two Rivers *Volga* and *Don*, into all Parts of *Europe*; what immense Profit and Riches must not by this means be conveyed into *Muscovy*! which being already so considerable for its vast Extent and Advantageous Situation for Trade, may in all probability thereby become the most Potent and Redoubtable in the World, &c.

Amsteldam, 30th
October, 1698:

I am,

The proposed Canal

It is proposed to construct a canal from the Lake of Geneva to the Mediterranean Sea, by the newly projected canal between the two Rivers Arve and Dore, into all parts of Europe; and this means be- comes necessary for the purpose of con- veying into Africa, which being al- ready so considerable for its vast extent and African commerce, thereby become- ing in all probability, thereby become the most fertile and productive in the world.

Proposed by
M. de Lamoignon

A
LETTER

FROM

A Person of Quality, Residing at
the Imperial Court of

NEW N A

To his Friend in

LONDON

Concerning the late solemn

Moscovite Embassy;

AND SOME

Other Matters relating to the Present

CEARISH MAJESTY

THE

Russian Empire, and the Great

TAR TARY

LONDON: Printed for A. MILLAR, in the
New-Temple-Lane. MDCCLXXII

A
LETTER

FROM

A Person of Quality, Residing at
the Imperial Court of

V I E N N A,

To his Friend in

LONDON,

Concerning the late Solemn

Muscovite Embassy ;

AND SOME

Other Matters Relating to His Present

CZARISH MAJESTY ;

THE

Russian Empire, and the Great

TARTARY.

LONDON, Printed for F. Coggan, in the
Innér-Temple-Lane. MDDXCIX.

LETTER

LETTER

FROM
A Person of Quality, Residing at

NEW YORK

Concerning
The present Condition
OF THE

AMERICAN EMPIRE

A
The present Condition of the American Empire has been for some time past the subject of all conversations. I thought it could not make you a more zealous patriot than it has done. For the Opposition you were elected to lay upon the table of the House of Representatives to the young Opposition. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the cause of the American Empire. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the cause of the American Empire. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the cause of the American Empire.

A
L E T T E R

F R O M

A Person of Quality, Residing at

V I E N N A,

Concerning

The present . C O N D I T I O N

O F T H E

Muscovite E M P I R E .

AS the late Journey of the present
Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, has been
for some time past, the Surprise
of all *Europe* ; so I thought I could not
make you a more Seasonable Return at
this time , for the Obligation you were
pleased to lay upon me some Months ago,
in communicating to me your Observati-
ons concerning His *Czarish* Majesty's Stay
in

The present Condition

in *England* and *Holland*, then to inform you of what has past since his coming into this Court, and his Return into *Muscovy*; of which I have been partly an eye-witness, the rest I stand indebted for the Correspondence of my Friends, upon whose Integrity and Judgment, I can fully rely.

I will not pretend to insist upon the Motives which induced the Czar to Engage in so Extraordinary an Undertaking, it being agreed on all hands, that as his Design was to build the Frame of the present *Russian* Monarchy upon a much more solid Foundation, than it was in former times, so he judged nothing could more conduce to obtain this Great End, than if he should take this Opportunity, of being inform'd in Person concerning these Maxims, which have rendered some of the *European* States, so flourishing in our Age.

For, whereas the *Russian* Monarchs used to make the Ignorance of their Subjects the Main Foundation-stone of their Authority; so it is obvious to every unbiassed Person, that his present Majesty looks upon the Improvements of all Arts and Sciences, and the Establishment of a regular Discipline, as the Main Pillars of the Greatness of this Monarchy.

It was in the Prosecution of this Grand Design he appear'd, though *Incognito*, in *England* and *Holland*, and after having satisfy'd himself in those Matters which were

of the Muscovite Empire. 77

were the Chief Subject of his Curiosity, he resolv'd to visit likewise the Imperial Court of *Vienna*, where he arriv'd with the *Muscovite* Embassy, towards the latter end of *June* last past.

He had scarce been a few days in this City, when he received Letters from *Asoph*, That part of that Garrison, to the Number of betwixt seven and eight Thousand Men, having receiv'd Intelligence, That the *Tartars* had put a great Number of their best Horses in the circumjacent Pastures, under the Guard of three thousand Men, were march'd out against them, had defeated the Guard, and brought near thirty thousand Horses into *Asoph*.

These Letters were in a few days after follow'd by an Express from *Muscovy*, with an Account, That the Remainders of the antient *Muscovite* Guards (whom they call *Strelitzes*) had Mutiny'd, under Pretence of Want of Pay; and that being join'd by some others, were march'd towards *Muscovy*, the Capital City of the whole Empire, with an Intention to Surprize and Ransack the Place. The *Strelitzes*, who formerly might be compar'd to the Janisaries of the *Turks*, had given such frequent proofs of their Barbarity and Cruelty against the Inhabitants of this City, upon such like Occasions, that many of them being terrified by so unexpected a Revolt in the Czar's Absence, left their Habitations, and a general

ral Consternation had seized the whole Empire, as dreading the Effects of the Fury of these Insolent Soldiers.

The Princes *Loff Kerilvitz*, *Nariskin*, *Procorofskoi*, and *Boris Alexiovitz Gallizin*, who had the Supream Administration of the Government during the Czar's Absence, were not wanting in their Duty, to encourage the Inhabitants both by Words, and their own Example; and that nothing might be wanting on their side, to reduce this rebellious Crew to their Duty, sent some of the Nobility, back'd by a good number of Troops, to endeavour to appease their Fury; but they were so far from hearkning to the Propositions offered them by the Deputies of the Governours, that they fired at them, and forced them to retire to the City:

Thus all fair means proving ineffectual, General *Gourdon* was sent out with a good Body of faithful Troops, Commanded for the most part by foreign Officers, who meeting with the Rebels, as they were advanced within four Leagues of *Muscow*, Attack'd, and totally Routed them, killing many of them upon the Spot, and carry the rest Prisoners to the City, where many of them receiv'd afterwards the due Reward of their Treachery.

The Czar being over-joyed at the Success of his Arms against these Mutineers, resolv'd not only to stay for some time at this Court, but also to continue his Journey from hence to *Vienne*; before his
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Return into *Muscovy*. I have hinted to you before, the Chief Motive which induced His *Czarist* Majesty to undertake so long and dangerous a Journey; but besides this, there may be alledged another, having a peculiar Respect to the Imperial Court. For the *Muscovites*, having by the Conquest of *Asoph*, opened themselves a Gate into the *Palmiræ*, and consequently into the *Black-Sea*, had all the Reason in the World to promise themselves the entire Conquest of the *Crim-Tartary*, and the *Tartarian Peninsula* it self, if the War should be carried on but for two years longer, by the Confederates against the Infidels, there being nothing but the Cities of *Precep*, *Crim*, and *Cassa*, places of no great Strength, which could make any considerable Resistance, and prevent them from making themselves Masters of all the Coast from *Asoph*, to the mouth of the River *Borysthene*, where they had already got firm footing, by the Conquest of the Fortrels of *Kasikermoen* in the Year 1695, and the Submission of many of the *Cossacks* upon the Frontiers, to the *Czar's* Obedience. His *Czarist* Majesty, who from the beginning of his War with the *Turks*, had had no less in view than the reducing of these Places, and making himself Master of the *Black-Sea*, had before his departure out of *Muscovy*, made all the necessary Preparations for the promoting of so Great a Design. He had not only strengthened the City

The present Condition

City of *Asoch* by some new Fortifications, and erected a strong Portress at some small distance from thence, but had caused a new Port to be made for the Convenience of his Navy. This Great Prince, who perfectly understands the advantageous Situation of his Dominions for Commerce, (one of the Main Pillars of the Prosperity of the Commonwealth,) has, ever since his Accession to the Throne, left no stone unturned, to improve it to the utmost Advantage.

It is to the *Muscovites*, Europe stands indebted for the Discovery of the Way by Land into *China*; and by the frequent Embassies sent by the present Czar into that Country, the Way through the *Great Tartary* is as well or better known to the *Russians*, than some Provinces of their own Empire. Several goodly Cities and Villages have been built for the Convenience of the *Muscovite* Caravans, and a vast Tract of Ground has been incorporated with the *Russian* Empire.

It is incredible of what Consequences the *China* Trade by Land, is to the *Muscovites*, who by the Help of their Sleds drawn by *Rees* in the Winter-time, perform this great Journey with much Expedition. Many of the Vagabond *Tartars*, incited by the Industry of the *Muscovite* Merchants trading in these parts, have quitted their Solitudes, and have settled themselves in *Siberia*, and some other Provinces of *Muscovy*, which were scarce inhabited

of the Muscovite Empire. 81

habited within these hundred years. The Communication betwixt *Muscovy* and some part of the *Indies*, as well as the *Persian Empire*, by help of the *Caspian Sea*, as it is obvious to every body that will but cast an Eye upon the Maps, so it is no less advantageous to the *Russians* than the *China Trade*. The *Banajans* (the most Trading People of all the *Indies*) have a very considerable Settlement in the City of *Astracan* (the Boundary of *Europe* and *Asia* on that side) from whence they furnish *Muscovy* with all the most precious Things the *Indies* afford, and by the continual passage of Merchants and others, trading from the City of *Muscovy* to *Astracan*, and other places upon the *Volga*, the Country betwixt the *Ocea* and *Volga* is better stor'd with Villages and Inhabitants, than many of the most Fertile Provinces of *Europe*.

The *Czar Peter Alexiowitch* was as well before, as in his late Journey, sufficiently convinced, that all these Advantages were but imperfect in respect of what might be hoped for, if by opening his way into the *Black Sea*, he could settle a Communication with *Italy*, and some other provinces of *Europe*, by which means the Riches of *China*, of the *Indies* and *Persia*, might be conveyed this way, to the no small Benefit of the *Muscovites*.

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The Conquest of *Asoph* had opened him the way to attain this end without any great difficulty, considering the present declining State of the *Ottoman* Empire, and the flourishing Condition of *Muscovy*, if he could prevail with his Imperial Majesty to continue the War a few years longer against the Infidels. It is agreed on all sides, That his Imperial Majesty shew'd as much inclination towards continuing the War with the *Turks*, than the Czar himself, and would have been as forward as any of the Confederates to second the laudable Zeal of His *Czarish* Majesty, if the present conjuncture had not obliged him to prefer the Interest of his Country before his Inclinations, at a time, when the Infidels made such considerable Offers to the Confederates for the obtaining a Truce or Peace.

For, besides that, by the Animosities Reigning in *Poland*, that King was not in a Condition to give any considerable diversion to the *Turks*, the Subjects of the Hereditary Countries of his Imperial Majesty being exhausted by the heavy Taxes, requisite for the carrying on so chargeable a War, stood in absolute need of some Respite to take breath, and the tottering State of the King of *Spain's* health, was a sufficient warning to the Imperial Court to be upon their Guard against *France*, where vast Preparations were made to back their claim to that Crown by Force.

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of the Muscovite Empire. 83

These were the true reasons that induced his Imperial Majesty to consent some Months after, to a Truce of 25 years with the *Ottoman Port*, wherein the *Czar of Muscovy* was included; but chose to accept of the same only for two years, for certain Reasons of State, I shall have occasion to mention to you anon.

On the 29th day of *June*, his *Czarish* Majesty had a private Audience from the Emperor, and desiring to be *Incognito*, he was conducted by a pair of Back-stairs, to the Emperor's Antichamber, where he was received by his Imperial Majesty in Person at the door; no body was admitted to be present at this Audience besides the Count *Wallenstein*, Lord High-Chamberlain, and the Count of *Dieterichstein*, Master of the Horse to the Emperor; the Czar was accompanied up Stairs only by the General *Le Fort*, his first Ambassador, who supplied the place of an Interpreter betwixt these two Illustrious Personages at this Interview.

After the first Complements were pass'd, the Emperor put on his Hat, but finding that the Czar remain'd uncovered, he also took off his Hat again, and remained thus till the Interview, which lasted about half an Hour, was pass'd.

Some days after, the Czar took an exact View of the Imperial Armory, Library, and other Rarities belonging to the Imperial Pallace, and the Emperor being sen-

sible of the Czar's Inclinations towards the Mathematicks, sent him a Present of the choicest Mathematical Instruments that could be found.

He likewise invited the Czar to a very splendid Entertainment, which began with a most Admirable Consort of Musick, and after a Magnificent Collation, ended with a certain kind of Masquerade, call'd in *Germany*, a *Wirthshaft*; frequently to be seen in the Courts of the *German* Princes, where the Master of the Feast always represents the Person of a Host; no body but persons of the first Rank of both Sexes being admitted to this Diversion.

In this, each Masker was clad after the Fashion of some different Nation, with a Lady in an Habit answerable to the same Nation, so that the most remarkable Nations of the World, being represented by this illustrious Company, adorn'd with the Richest Stuffs, and a prodigious quantity of precious Stones, it afforded a most unusual, but at the same time, most Magnificent and agreeable Spectacle to the Czar.

To be short, this Court, to shew their utmost Respect to so Extraordinary a Guest, strove to out-vye all the rest which His Majesty had visited before; There was nothing but Jollity and Feasting to be seen, during his Stay at *Vienna*; and among others, the Count of *Starenbergh*, General of the Emperour's Armies, signaliz'd himself on this Occasion, having invited

invited the Czar and his Ambassadors, with all the Persons of Quality of both Sexes, then at Vienna, to a most splendid Feast.

The Czar in his Turn took the opportunity of St. Peter's Day to Entertain the Principal Lords and Ladies of the Court, at the Palace of Countess Idoff, where the Muscovite Ambassadors were lodg'd; the Emperour solemniz'd the same by an Artificial Fire-Work and a fine Consort of Musick.

Towards the latter end of July, the Muscovite Ambassadors had their publick Audience of His Imperial Majesty, which was very splendid, especially in respect of the rich Presents design'd for the Emperour, which consisted in the most precious Ermines, and Sables, and Cloths of Gold and Silver, born by fifty Persons, clad all in black Velvet. They were receiv'd at their Entrance into the outward Court by the Guards in Arms, and after being admitted to the Audience of the Emperour with the usual Ceremonies, were most splendidly Treated at Court, and reconducted to their own Pallace.

It was but a few days after, when the Czar, having taken a Resolution to go to Venice, in order, as it was suppos'd, to concert Matters with that Republick, how best to annoy the Turks at Sea, he sent some of his Train and Equipage before. The Venetians were no sooner inform'd of His Majesty's Resolution, but they appoint-

ed four Procurators of *St. Mark*, to receive and attend him. They ordered the necessary Carriages to the Frontiers, and the Pallace of *Toscari* in the Arsenal, was to be fitted up for his Reception. But when every body expected to hear of the *Czar's* Departure for *Venice*, great was their Surprize when they understood, that he had taken his Leave on a sudden of the Emperour, and was return'd with only thirty of his most Trusty Servants, (among whom were General *Le Fort*, and *Fedor Alexiovitz Gallowin*, his two Ambassadors) by the Way of Poland into *Muscovy*, leaving *Pracofet Bogdanovitz Wolnitzin*, his third Ambassadour at *Vienna*, as his Plenipotentiary, to manage his Interest at the approaching Treaty betwixt the *Confederates* and *Turks*.

You may easily suppose, that the whole Court was not a little amazed at this unexpected Change of the *Czar's* former Resolution, every one judging of the Matter according to his Opinion, but the Generality attributing it to some great Commotion in *Muscovy*, the Truth of which was not confirm'd to us, till some time after.

I told you before, that soon after his *Czarish* Majesty's arrival at *Vienna*, he receiv'd the News of a Revolt among the *Strelitzes* in *Muscovy*, and of their Defeat by General *Gourdon*, which made the *Czar* take a Resolution to go to *Venice* before his Return into *Muscovy*; but the event has shewn

of the Muscovite Empire. 87

shewn since, that they were not so entirely dispersed, but that their Party appear'd very formidable, notwithstanding their last Rout. For by the Confession of some of the Rebels that were put to the Rack, they were back'd in this Enterprize not only by the Princess *Sophia*, the present Czar's Sister, but also by a great many of the Nobility, who had been disgusted at the Czar's Severity against some of their Kindred, and by a considerable Part of the Army upon the Frontiers of *Poland*.

The Princess *Sophia*, with her Adherents, taking the Advantage of the Czar's Absence, left no stone unturn'd to insinuate into the People, that he had overturn'd the whole Frame of the Antient *Russian* Government, by reducing the Standing Forces of the *Strelitzes* to so inconsiderable a Number, and depriving them of their most antient Privileges, in lieu of which, he had set over them a great number of foreign Officers, who were his absolute Favourites, and Domineer'd over the Natives at pleasure:

That the Chief aim of his Journey into foreign Parts, was to bring along with him such a Number of Foreigners, as should be able so entirely to subdue the antient Nobility of the Empire, as to be past all hopes of recovering their former Privileges and Dignity.

There were also some among the Clergy, who being jealous of the Czar's Favour towards these Foreigners, that were

not of the *Greek Church*, blew up the coals, clamburing with great Zeal to their Auditors, That their Religion was in most imminent Danger, by the Enconragement given to *Foreigners* of another Religion, who, as they were the Instruments of overturning the antient Foundation of the State, so they would in time prove the utter Ruine of their Religion.

To this it was added, That the Czar being at present in far distant Countries, they could not wish for a more seasonable Opportunity to recover their Loss, by putting the Government into the hands of the Princess *Sophia*, which of Right belonged to her in the Czar's Absence, and which she had managed with so much Dexterity during her Brother's Minority.

These Insinuations were so prevailing with many, that they had brought over to their Party, not only the *Strelitzes*, and other Malecontents of the Nobility, who were ready at all times to join against the Czar, but also some of the Head of the Clergy, many of the Chief of the Army, and among them the General that Commanded upon the Frontiers of *Lithuania*, as likewise some Lords and Courtiers of the first Rank, who were always look'd upon as absolutely devoted to the Czar's Interest.

Notice having been given to the Czar of these Cabals against his Person and Government, when he was just upon his departure for *Venice*, this oblig'd him to alter

alter his Resolution, being sensible that the surest measures he could take at such an extraordinary Juncture, were to endeavour to divert by his Royal Presence, the Storm that threatened the destruction of his Government in his Absence.

According to this Resolution, he took the nearest way through *Poland*, with a few of his faithful Friends, and after a Stay of three days at *Rava* near *Leopold*, where he had an Interview with his *Polish* Majesty about Matters of great Moment, especially concerning the approaching Treaty with the *Turks*; he continued his Journey with so much expedition, that he appear'd in *Muscovy*, when his Enemies believ'd him to have been at *Venice*.

His so unexpected Appearance, as it fill'd all his faithful Subjects with Joy, so it struck such a Terrour into the Rebellious Party, that being thereby bereav'd of all hopes of Success, they durst not as much as make any Attempt to put their projected Design in execution.

His *Czarish* Majesty having in the mean while, taken a firm Resolution, to strike at the Root of this Rebellion, and to eradicate Root and Branch this Factionous Crew of the *Strelitzes*, above two thousand of them were executed in sight of the Princess *Sophia*, all the rest being banished into *Siberia*, and some other remote Provinces; Many of the Nobility, of which number were Prince *Colorin*, and the

the General *Romanodokowski*, with several Ladies of Quality, some Fryers, and other Priests of the first Rank, were some Enmortal'd, some broken upon the Wheel, others buried alive.

I don't question but that you will look upon these Transactions of the Czar, as favouring of too much Severity, both in respect of the Number and Quality of those on whom these Rigorous Punishments were inflicted; but if you will call to mind the reiterated Conspiracies, carried on by this Party ever since his *Czarish Majesty's* Accession to the Crown, both against his Person and Government, you will, I am apt to believe, be obliged to own, that what was done upon this Account by the Czar, was not an Effect of his Natural Disposition, which is in no wise inclinable to Cruelty, but must be attributed to the present Urgency of the Affairs of the State, which required, that those Members, who after all the Lenitives had been made use of in vain, to allay their malignant Humours, were now to be treated with Corrosives, and such as were quite degenerated into an incurable Gangrene, must be separated from the rest, by cutting off the infected Parts.

You cannot be ignorant that since his Majesty's return into *Muscovy*, a Truce has been concluded with the *Turks* for 25 years, in respect of his Imperial Majesty and the Crown of *Poland*, but for two years only with his *Czarish Majesty*. The Treaty betwixt his *Czarish Majesty* and the
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of the Muscovite Empire. 91

Turkish Sultan, was sign'd under the Tents near *Carlowitz*, December the 25th, 1698, by *Procofat Bogdanovitz Wolnitzin*, as Plenipotentiary and Ambassadour Extraordinary of the Czar of *Muscovy*, and *Mehemed Rami*, and *Alexander Mauro Cordati de Scarlati*, as Plenipotentiaries of the Ottoman Port, consisting in these three following Articles.

1. That by Vertue of this Treaty, a Truce is concluded betwixt these two Potent Empire for two years, to begin from the 15th day of *December*, S. N. 1698. And that in the mean while, all possible Endeavours shall be used on both sides, to re-settle a perfect Amity and good Understanding betwixt both Parties, either by a firm and perpetual Peace, or the prolongation of this Truce for a longer space of Years.

2. That in the mean time all Acts of Hostility under what Pretence soever, shall be forborn, and all Animosities laid aside betwixt both Parties.

3. That the Chan of *Crim-Tartary* shall be comprehended in this Truce, who in the mean while, shall be obliged to prevent all Excursions on his side. And effectual Care is to be taken on both sides, that none of the other *Tartarian Herds*, or any of the *Cossacks*, as well those under the *Muscovite* as *Ottoman* Jurisdiction, may commit any Hostilities or Depredations, such of the beforementioned *Tartars*, or *Cossacks* (whether *Muscovites* or *Turks*)
that

The present Condition

that shall in any wise violate or act contrary to this Article, being to be exemplary punished by their respective Sovereigns.

I am apt to imagine, that considering the small Space of Time concluded in this Treaty for the Truce betwixt these two Potent Princes, it will be look'd upon among you who live at so great a distance, as a Politick Contrivance of this Court and that of Poland, to wipe off the Blemish of deserting so Potent an Ally, who has given so considerable a Diversion to the *Turks*, during some Years of this War; but I do not question before I come to the Conclusion of this Letter, to make it apparent, that as the whole was transfacted by his *Czarish* Majesty's Orders and good liking, so the same is founded upon a most solid and refined Reasons of State, on the side of the *Muscovites*.

I told you before, That the Czar of *Muscovy* having by the Conquest of the City of *Asoph*, situate so near the *Palmus* *Motis*, not only opened his Way into the *Black-Sea*, but also to the entire Conquest of the *Crim-Tartary*, and the whole *Peninsula*, as far as to the *Borysthene*s it self, had all the Reason in the World, to be desirous of the Continuance of the War against the *Turks*; and that this was one of the Chief Motives of his Journey to the Court of *Venna*.

But

of the Muscovite Empire. 93

But his *Czarish* Majesty being made sufficiently sensible, that at this juncture of time, the Confederates, without great Prejudice to their own Interest, could not refuse the Advantageous Propositions offered by the *Turks*, he could not pitch upon a better Expedient than this Truce of two years, to accomplish his Great Design of either making himself Master of the *Black-Sea*, or at least to oblige the *Turks* to grant his Subjects a free Trade in their Ports, for the Conveniency of Transporting the *China*, *Indian*, *Persian*, and *Russian* Commodities into *Italy*, and other Parts of *Europe*.

This will be manifest, if we make a due comparison betwixt the present posture of Affairs, betwixt the *Turks* and *Muscovites* on that side. For, not to mention here the present flourishing State of the *Muscovite* Empire, and the declining Condition of the *Turks* in general, it is most evident, that the *Ottomans* lie under no small Disadvantages, in respect of the *Muscovites* on that side.

The *Muscovites* by the late Conquests upon the *Borysthenes* and *Palus Miotis*, by the Submission of the *Cossacks* and *Circassian Tartars*, by strengthening the old, and erecting several new Fortresses in these Parts, have so strengthened their Frontiers thereabouts, that they seem to be impenetrable, considering the powerful Succours they are able to send to the Relief of any place that shall be attack'd
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by the *Turks*; the *Muscovite* Armies by the introduction of a regular Martial Discipline among them, and the vast Number of well qualified foreign Officers, who command them, being at least equal, if not superiour to the *Turkish Janisaries* themselves, the Flower and Main strength of their Armies, which also has been reduced to a much less number, by the Misfortunes they have suffered in the last War against the Christians.

It is furthermore to be considered, that the *Turks* having hitherto look'd upon the *Muscovites* as so inconsiderable, that the *Crim-Tartary* was thought a sufficient Bulwark against them, their Fortresses and Maritime Towns, though of the greatest Consequence to them, in respect of maintaining the Dominion of the *Black-Sea*, have been neglected; whereas by the Vigilancy of his present *Czarish* Majesty, the *Muscovite* Frontiers are in a better State than any of his other Dominions, by the Addition of several regular Fortifications.

The Naval Strength of *Muscovy*, tho' scarce worth mentioning a few years ago, has by the indefatigable Care of the present *Czar Peter Alexidvitz*, been established upon so good and firm a Foundation, that the same is incomparably superior to the *Turkish* Fleet (which has been batter'd so often by the *Venetians* of late) both in respect of number of Ships, and the goodness of their Seamen and Commanders,

of

of which last, the *Czar* has taken a considerable number into his Service, during his stay in these Parts.

The Treaty betwixt the *Christians* and *Turks* being chiefly built upon this Foundation, that Matters should remain among all Parties in *Status-quo*, his *Czarish* Majesty had little prospect of obtaining the Dominion over the *Black-Sea*, or a free Commerce in the *Turkish* Ports by a long Truce, which would have given the *Turks* leisure to recover Breath, and to strengthen their Fortresses and Maritime Places on that side; whereas two years cannot be judged in any wise a proportionable time requisite for to put themselves in a State of defence against so Potent a Neighbour as the *Czar* of *Muscovy* is at present; so that at the expiration of these two years, his *Czarish* Majesty has all the Probability on his side to obtain his aim, either by the prolongation of this Truce, or force of Arms.

That this is his *Czarish* Majesty's design, seems sufficiently probable to me from his vast Preparations at Sea, being informed from very good hands, that he has at *Veroniza* only near forty stout Men of War, ready to put to Sea, most of which carry betwixt fifty and sixty Guns, besides thirty more which are to be ready and fit for Service against the next Spring, and a proportionable number of Great and small Gallies, Mand for the most part with foreign Mariners, very Expert in the Sea-

96 *The present Condition*

Sea-service. What Force are the *Turks* able to oppose at this time against such a Naval Strength, when they have not been able to cope with the *Venetians* at Sea in this last War? I am not ignorant that some of our Politicians in this Court are of Opinion, that when, by the intended Canal betwixt the two Rivers, *Volga* and *Don*, a Communication is made with the *Caspian-Sea*, the *Czar* may with more Conveniency extend his Conquests that way; but considering, that the *Caspian-Sea* has few good Ports, and that the *Muscovite* Territories are separated by Land by vast Desarts from *Persia*, and that there is a strict Correspondence betwixt these two vast neighbouring Empires, founded upon the Conveniency of their mutual Commerce, I see no great Reason why it may not be more reasonably supposed, that, in case the *Turks* do not by granting free Commerce to the *Muscovites*, after the expiration of this two Years Truce, prevent the Storm, his *Czars* Majesty should not turn his Arms against them, especially in the *Black-Sea*, where every thing seems to flatter him with hopes of Success and great Advantages on his side.

I am afraid I have been too tedious in these Reflections, wherefore I would not tire your Patience, if I had not something to add, before I come to the Conclusion of this Letter, concerning the *Grand-Tartary*, and other Northern Countries,

of the Muscovite Empire. 97

tries, betwixt the River *Ob* and the *Chim* Wall; in the Description of which, as the antient Geographers have labour'd with such ill Success, and given us their own Inventions for Truth; and the Modern Historians for the most part, have described an inaccessible Desert in lieu of a well inhabited Country; so, I reckon it will not be disagreeable to you, if I give you some Account of what I have been able to learn concerning this Point, from some of the most open-hearted and most ingenious among the *Muscovites*, during the Stay of the late Great Embassy in this Court.

I have told you before that the World was beholding to the *Muscovites*, for the discovery of the Way by Land through the *Great Tartary* into *China*. For the Way by Land through *India*, and the Territories of the *Great Mogul*, being found almost impracticable by reason of the vast Deserts; the Inhabitants of *Siberia*, after they had submitted to the *Muscovites*, furnished them with sufficient Opportunity to discover the Way into *China* on that side. For these People being encouraged by the Advantages of vending their Sable Martins to the *Muscovites* at so excessive a rate, as well as their black Fox-Skins, scarce ever known before in those Parts, did, to satisfy their Avarice, engage themselves in those far distant Countries in quest of these Creatures, by which

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The present Condition

means they were by degrees, and as it may be said, insensibly brought upon those Roads which lead into *China*.

After the first discovery of these Roads, the *Mosscoies* did leave no stone unturned, but made themselves acquainted with the Countries that lie betwixt them and the *Chinese Walls*, for which purpose they used, under some pretence or other, to send frequent Messengers into *China*, who have taken divers Roads, and many times making great Circumferences in their Journeys, at length by this means, in process of Time, made all the discoveries they could wish for. They discovered besides the *Oshioi*, *Arakoi*, and *Tungoes*, who have their Habitations near the Rivers which border upon *Siberia*, three different sorts of *Tartars*, very remarkable for the vast extent of those Countries they are possess'd of; to wit: The *Tartars* of *Regoi*, the *Mongul Tartars*, and the *Calucki*.

The first are the same which by the *Chinese*, are call'd, the *Eastern Tartars*: Their Country is of a vast extent, enclosed betwixt the *Eastern Seas* and the Rivers *Chingala* and *Yamou*. They were the first that many Ages ago, entered *China*, but now are Tributaries to that Empire; which makes them much more civiliz'd than the rest of the *Tartars*, by reason of their great Commerce with the *Chinese*; the Rivers of *Yamou* and *Chingala*,

of the Muscovite Empire. 99

gala, affording great store of Rubies and Pearls, which supply the defect of their Cattle, which is very small. They are in their Bodies not unlike to the *Crim-Tartars*, and both their Language and Characters not unlike the *Persians*, but they write like the *Chineses*, from the top downwards. Though they are not altogether ignorant of Guns and Gunpowder, yet not being well inform'd of all the Advantages belonging to them, they make but seldom use of them, they are Govern'd by several *Chans*. To the West of these *Eastern-Tartars*, are those of *Mongol*, inhabiting a spacious Country betwixt the River *Yamou*, *China*, *Turquesia*, and the *Calmuks*, from whom they are divided by vast Desarts. They are Govern'd by three Princes, who have each of them several other *Chans* under their Jurisdiction. They are call'd by the *Chineses*, the *Western-Tartars*, and acknowledge in some measure, the Authority of the *Czars of Muscovy*, by reason of the Neighbourhood of *Siberia*, and some other Countries thereabouts, Subject to the *Muscovite Empire*, with whom they keep Traffick in Cattle, of which they have a great Plenty, this Country being very full of Rivers, good Meadows and Pasturages. They are unacquainted with the use of Fire-Arms, and inhabit neither Towns nor Villages.

The *Calmuck Tartars* possess that vast Tract of Land, which lies betwixt these *Mongul Tartars* and the River *Volga*, as far as to the Delarts of *Astracan*; they are divided into many *Hordes*, each under the Command of a particular *Chan*, yet they acknowledge one Principal *Chan*, who deduces his Pedigree from the Great *Tamerlan*, and keeps a very Noble Court after the *Persian* Manner. They have no fixed Habitations no more than the *Mongols*, but live in Tents very commodiously contrived. As they never stay long in a place, so they are the quickest in the World at Encamping and Decamping, which is the reason the *Czars* of *Muscovy* seek for their Alliance, by certain yearly Presents; and these are very ready to keep a good Correspondence with the *Muscovites*, for the Conveniency of vending their Horses and Slaves, which they take from the other Neighbouring *Tartars*. They are all inclining to an *Oriental* Colour, their Eyes small but sparkling, their Noses short and somewhat flat. Their Habits are for the most part the same, being distinguished only from one another, by a Tuft of Silk upon their round Bonnets, according to the colour of the *Horde* to whom they belong. They wear only Sheep-Skins, sew'd together in the nature of Vests, with a Cord round their Waiste, whereon they fasten their Bows and Quivers.

You

of the Muscovite Empire. 101

You may easily imagine, that when the *Muscovites* had once opened their Passage into those Parts, it was no difficult Task for them, to subdue those inhabiting near their Frontiers by force of Arms, and by the Terror of their Strength, to settle a fair Correspondence with the rest; so that following first the Tracts of the Rivers *Obi*, *Sabelinga*, *Genessa*, and *Tamour*, they built several Fortresses upon the said Rivers, both to secure their Conquests, and for the more convenient Passage of their Caravans to China.

The last Fortress, which the *Muscovites* built upon the River *Tamour*, is called *Albazin*, which, as it is not above a Months Journey from *Peking*, the Capital of the Chinese Empire, so it prov'd the occasion of the late War betwixt the *Chinese* and *Muscovites*, which was carried on for some time with equal Vigour on both sides, till at last, the present Czar *Peter Alexiowitch*, being made sensible by Experience of the great Inconveniences that attended this War on his side, in reference to the vast distance of these Frontiers, which are five or six Months March from the City of *Moscow*; whereas on the other hand, the *Chinese* send their Supplies with much more Ease, and infinite less Charge, by reason of the nearness of the *Eastern Tartars*, their Subjects; and the Czar having at the same time a strong Inclination to come to a Rupture with the *Turks*, at a

Juncture when their Affairs were but in an ill posture, resolved to come to an Accommodation with the *Chineses*.

The first meeting of the Ambassadors of these two Potent Empires upon the Frontiers near *Albain*, proved unsuccessful, the *Chineses*, according to their ancient Customs, insisting upon some Ceremonies that would not on any wise be granted by the *Muscovites*; But the second Treaty succeeded according to wish, the *Chineses* being forced to abate of their Pride, and to Treat the *Muscovite* Ambassadors from that time, with all the Respect due to their Character.

The *Muscovites* having not till very lately applied themselves to the Sea, it is no great wonder, if they have not neglected the Passage by Water into *China*, by the Way of the Rivers *Oby*, *Genessai*, and *Tamou*; and in lieu thereof, have left nothing unattempted to open their Passage thither by Land. 'Tis true, the *Fleets of Ice*, which for the greatest part of the Year are to be met with at the Entrance of the River *Oby*, the many Waterfalls of the River *Genessai*, and the Bullrushes which choak almost up the mouth of the River *Tamou*, are Obstacles, which though they might have been surmounted by industrious and expert Seamen, yet were so terrifying to the *Muscovites*, as to bereave them of all hopes of success.

And

And to confess the Truth, considering the Method used by the *Russian* Merchants and Caravans, and the good Order taken for their convenient Passage through these Parts, the same contribute not a little towards mitigating both the Trouble and Charge of so long a Journey. And as soon as they set forward, most commonly from the City of *Moscow* in February, when the Snow being well beaten, they travel in nineteen or twenty days, as far as *Tobolsky*, the Capital City of *Siberia*, eight hundred *English* Miles distant from the City of *Moscow*. If it happens to thaw about that time (which is very seldom) they take the conveniency of the Rivers on this and the other side of the River *Oby*, by which means they cross the Country till they come to the *Obiack*, the first of the *Eastern Tartars*, Subject to the *Czar* of *Moscow*. But if the Frost continue, they go on by Land the same way, where they change their Houses for *Rates* or *Reindeers*, which carry them with incredible swiftness over the Snow and Ice to the City of *Gemejai*, built by the *Muscovites* upon the River of the same Name, for the conveniency of their Merchants travelling in those Parts. Here it is they take Vessels which carry them upon the Rivers *Tonguska* and *Angara*, against the Stream, to the Lake of *Baikala*.

From this Lake they either take Shipping upon the River *Sabelinga*, as far as to a City of the same Name, owing likewise its foundation to the *Muscovites*, or else proceed in their Way by Land, immediately after they have crossed the beforementioned Lake, through the Country of the *Abenul Tars*, who readily furnish them with Mules, and Attendants, to the Confiner of *Chenab*.

But for the better understanding of this Famous Passage by Land, I will conclude this Letter with giving you the best Account I could get, of several of the *Muscovites* hereon of the Road lately taken by a Royal Embassy sent into *China*.

They go from *Musom* to the Famous Convent of *Troitzag* about sixty English Miles, from thence to the City of *Perebla*, as many Miles from *Troitzag*.

From *Perebla*, they go to the City of *Rostof*, sixty Miles from the last, and so to the City of *Isafesla*, near a hundred and twenty Miles distant from thence.

From *Isafesla* they go to the Great City of *Belogda*, which lies one hundred and eighty Miles from the last.

From this place they continue their Journey to the small City of *Totma*, upon the River *Pengoo Suchina*, and so to *Ustinga*, a considerable Place upon the River *Suchana*; from thence to a small

of the Muscovite Empire. 105

small City, call'd *Lolomitzgatz*, upon the River *Wietzga*, which oxonerates it self in the River *Dwina*.

About fifty Miles from thence, they pass through a great Forrest above seven hundred Miles long; after which they come to *Kuigord*, a City upon the Famous River *Kama*.

From *Kuigord*, they proceed to *Solokamiskoy*, a City upon the River *Ufal*, which thereabouts discharges it self in the River *Kama*.

Thus they continue their Journey for one hundred and twenty Miles without any considerable River, till they come to the River *Lafoma*, where they take Shipping for *Uragorsk*, a goodly City, near three hundred and fifty Miles distant from *Solokamiskoy*.

From thence they go forward to *Jar*, a Town upon the River *Ural*, and so by *Romoshors*, upon the River *Rash*, to *Newagord*, upon the River *Nura*, the first Town of *Siberia*.

From hence they pass through a fertile and well Peopled Country to the Town of *Zudna*, situate upon the River *Nizna*, to the Towns of *Niginokoy*, *Irbitskoy*, *Kirginskoy*, *Suberawin* and *Jalau*, the last of which lies upon the River *Tura*, to where the River *Nura* discharges it self into the same.

They

They continue their Journey from hence to the Town of *Krasn*, to the City of *Tumen*, and so to the Town of *Makana* upon the River *Pishina*, where it discharges its self into the River *Tura*; from thence to the Town of *Sibol*, at the confluence of the two Rivers *Tura* and *Tobol*, the last being on the right; whence bridge they to the City of *Tobolsky*, the Capital of *Siberia*, situate upon the confluence of the two Rivers, *Turish* and *Tobol*, the last of which has given name to the City. From *Tobolsky*, they continue their Journey through the Towns of *Denisk* and *Samarkoyan*, and about two Miles beyond the last, they meet with a Branch of the famous River *Oby*, which brings them to the City of *Surgut*, and afterwards to the City of *Nizhny*, situate upon the Banks of the River *Oby*. Here they quit this River, and proceed to the River *Kura*, which brings them to the Town of *Kerzsky*.

From hence they go to *Makafsky*, and after they have travelled for two days and nights through a great Forest, they come to the City of *Jeneksky*, upon the River *Jeneksky*, which is both very Navigable, and its Banks inhabited by the *Ossetians*. From hence they come to the City of *Potom*, about a Mile from whence the Rivers *Dnieper* and *Dniester* fall into the River *Tagan*, which from thence for

After

of the Muscovite Empire. 701

After they have continued their Journey for some time upon this River, they leave it to the Right, and take their way towards the River *Tunguska*, whereabouts are the Habitations of the *Tunguses*; which they leave again to the Right, and proceed in their Journey to the City of *Ilimsky*, situate upon the River *Ilim*; the Country thereabouts being pretty well inhabited.

After they have travelled three days and nights through a Forrest, they come to the River *Angara*, which brings them to the City of *Irkutsky*, situate upon the River.

About thirty Miles from hence is the Lake of *Baikal*, where the River *Angara* has its first Rise, being the utmost Boundary of *Siberia*.

From hence they continue their Journey through the Towns of *Kabania*, *Belsko-Saimcko*, and *Ostrog-Udinsky* in the Province of *Dauria*, inhabited by Tartars, to the City of *Irkutsky* situate upon a Lake of the same name.

After they have pass'd this Lake, they are forced to travel through a great Desert, which is watered however by the River *Uda*, and at last come to the Lake called *Sabaika-Oser*, about two Miles over; then they come to the Village of *Plotus*, about a Mile from whence the Rivers *Sucta* and *Onna*, fall into the River *Ingeda*, which from thence forward

ward is called *Schilka*, and being augmented by the two Rivers *Nerxa* and *Arguna*, produces that Famous River, the *Yanow*.

From hence they go to the City of *Nertchinsk*, upon the River *Nerxa*, being the last Fortrefs upon these Frontiers belonging to the *Moscovites*.

Then they travel for near three weeks thro' Desarts, Porrests, and Boggy grounds, till they come to *Arguna*, a small City upon a River of the same name, and the last Place under the *Moscovite* Jurisdiction in the Province of *Dauria*. Here they meet in their way with the Rivers *Derby*, *Gann*, *Kaitar*, and *Sadama*, all which discharge themselves into the *Arguna*, till they come to the Source of the River *Jal*, where they meet with the first Out-gards of the *Chinese*, being a very fertile and well peopled Country, inhabited by the *Targushini*, who are Pagans, Subject to *China*.

Through these they pass to a Village, called *Suttigarski*, and from thence to the City of *Nann*, three Miles distant from the former. From hence they proceed in their Journey for several days, through another Desart destitute of any Springs or other Water, till they come to the River *Casumar*, which discharges it self in the River *Nann*.

They

of the Muscovite Empire. 109

They pass afterwards by the Ruines of a great many Cities, and at three days Journey from the Famous Chinese Wall, through a Road cut out of the Rocks, which brings them to the City of Karakaton.

After they have pass'd the Chinese Wall, the first Place they meet with is the City of Galgan, not above a Mile within the Wall; from thence they go to Xantung, Xunguxu, Xangote, and Tunco to Peking, the Residence of the Emperours of China. Being sensible that I have sufficiently tired your Patience, I will add no more, but in expectation of your next, rest

Vienna, Feb.

24. 1699.

Sir,

Yours, &c.

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